FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AGUIRRE LANARI DEPARTS FOR CARTAGENA MEETING

PY231335 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1135 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari, left this morning for Cartagena, Colombia, where he will attend a meeting that Latin American nations will hold in view of the forthcoming Nonaligned Summit to be held in India. Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari departed from the Ezeiza international airport minutes after 0800 aboard a commerical airline flight.

Airport Remarks Reported

PY232253 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari left for Colombia this morning. Before his departure, Aguirre Lanari talked to the press at the Ezeiza international airport. One of our reporters talked to the foreign minister. This is his report.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Foreign Minister, you said on several occasions that Great Britain is trying by all means to damage the Argentine position. However, the public does not know what you mean by damage and how it is being carried out. Could you be specific about this point.

[Answer] It will be a pleasure. I think this is a very good question. I am referring in particular to the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement to be held in New Delhi. It should be pointed out that although we have the support of the majority within the Nonaligned Movement, the vote within the movement is carried out on the basis of concensus. In other words, it is assumed that when a resolution is adopted it must have concensus. However, if a group of countries -- although small but more or less important and active -- decides to debate a matter during the plenary session or makes a reservation or votes adversely on the resolution submitted for approval, it can then be understood that there is no concensus. Therefore you can understand that if there are groups of countries -- and unfortunately there are -- trying to neutralize the resolution obtained in Managua -- a resolution we are going to try to get approved -- these countries can undoubtedly cause our country serious harm.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, is the Nonaligned Movement going to discuss in New Delhi the British fortification of the Malvinas Islands.

[Answer] Indeed, we have been denouncing at the international level these actions being carried out by Great Britain, actions which are undoubtedly against all current international rules.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the nuclear weapons?

[Answer] I was specifically referring to that.

[Question] The Argentine foreign policy at the regional level is also very important. In this regard, the Beagle matter with Chile is related to a well balanced Argentine foreign policy. We would like to know your opinion on this matter.

[Answer] I would like to emphasize that Argentina maintains the same negotiating position. We trust that within the framework of the papal mediation we are going to reach a solution in accordance with the fraternal tradition which has always existed between Chile and Argentina. [end recording].

NICOLAIDES HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 23 FEB

PY240027 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] This morning Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Cristino Nicolaides held a press conference at the Lt Gen Pedro Eugenio Aramburu Infantry School, in the Campo de Mayo headquarters.

Nicolaides remarked that the results of the dialogue that is under way and that has been widely publicized by all media reflect our society's support for peaceful coexistence and reconciliation. The commander also said that he hoped that the future electoral campaign will not be marked by either insults or violence.

Concerning the current situation, Nicolaides stressed that the crisis we are going through will only be overcome on the basis of tolerance, understanding and reconciliation under our common ideal of consolidating true national unity.

At the infantry school, General Nicolaides inspected equipment prototypes that are being tested for future use by the army, in the light of the experience gained during the recent South Atlantic conflict. Prototypes have been developed and built in our country, as a significant contribution to local industry and the national economy.

Nicolaides also said that the Armed Forces fervently desire the successful completion of the democratization process, following the electoral timetable that the military junta will approve and that President Reynaldo Bignone will announce to the nation.

Concerning the report on the Malvinas war, Nicolaides said that it is almost ready and that it will be made known as soon as all the necessary background information is gathered.

ECONOMY MINISTRY REPORTS DECLINING DEFICIT

PY231618 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2137 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (DYN) -- According to an official report released by the Economy Ministry, the fiscal deficit reached almost 4.5 trillion pesos in January, a figure 53 percent lower, in real terms, than that of January 1982 and 80 percent lower than that of December 1982.

Central Bank "temporary advances" -- monetary issuance -- for 62,910,000,000,000 pesos played a major role in public finance in January. This amount of money was printed not only for the purpose of covering the fiscal deficit but also for the amortization of foreign debts for 7,910,000,000,000 pesos and for the massive cancellation of treasury bills and national adjustable securities for 52,320,000,000,000 pesos.

MARTINEZ DE HOZ CITED FOR 'ECONOMIC SUBVERSION'

PY181752 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1120 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Feb (DYN) -- The morning metropolitan newspaper TIEMPO reported today that the Air Force has proposed that former Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz and the members of the team that accompanied him in his administration be placed "preventively at the disposal of the national executive branch, charged with economic subversion" while the economic crimes attributed to them are investigated by the courts.

According to TIEMPO, in addition to Martinez de Hoz, the following persons should be placed at the disposal of the national executive branch "preventively" and "charged with economic subversion:" Adolfo Diz, former Central Bank president; Guillermo Walter Klein, economic programming and coordination secretary; and Alejandro Reynald and Cristian Zimmermann, the successive vice presidents of the Central Bank.

"The events which the Air Force wants to be explained thoroughly are included in the 35 illegal actions which different judges are investigating," TIEMPO states.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECRETARY, GOVERNORS RESIGN

Magdalena Resignation Accepted

PY231822 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Report from Government House]

[Text] In brief statements made to journalists at the end of the cabinet meeting held at Government House today, Public Information Secretary Pastor Oscar Magdalena said that he had submitted his resignation to the president and that his resignation was accepted.

Magdalena stressed that his resignation was a formal procedure because when he accepted the appointment he told President Bignone that he would leave his post at the end of 1982. Magdalena stated that he remained in his post during January and February for administrative reasons.

Entre Rios, La Pampa Governors

PY230120 Buenos Aires TELAM in spanish 2147 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (TELAM) -- The national executive branch today accepted the resignations presented by the governors of Entre Rios and La Pampa provinces and designated Engineer Mario Cesar Bertozzi and National Public Accountant Eduardo Angel Fraire, respectively, to replace them.

This report was released by the Public Information Secretariat of the Presidency, indicating that the executive branch, through decree Nos 408 and 410, accepted the resignations presented by the governors of Entre Rios and La Pampa provinces, Dr Avelino Jorge Washington Ferreyra and National Public Accountant Ricardo Jose Tellerіarte, expressing gratitude for the important services they rendered.

Santa Fe Governor

PY231504 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1441 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM) -- It has been officially announced that Santa Fe Governor Roberto Casis' resignation has been accepted and that Hector Salvi has been named to replace him.

Up to the present time Salvi has been occupying the post of secretary general of government of Santa Fe Province.

INTRANSIGENT PARTY SHUNS DIALOGUE WITH REGIME

PY182344 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1602 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Santa Fe, 18 Feb (NA) -- Intransigent Party [PI] President Oscar Alende today confirmed that his party will not participate in the dialogue called by President Reynaldo Bignone because "it would be a waste of time since spoken words are lost in the air and written words in the wastebasket." He noted that "rumors, reports or gossips about possible coups will end when the government adequately sets the date of the election and of the change of government and enforces the electoral law."

Commenting on the foreign debt, Alende said that in addition to finding out its causes "it should be investigated whether those businessmen whose factories had gone bankrupt have deposited $40 billion in Swiss banks." He noted that the PI unilateral decision of not participating in the dialogue will not affect the Multiparty Group in which each party maintains its own identity.

BIGNONE BEGINS 'DIALOGUE' WITH PARTIES, MEETS UCR

PY221931 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1352 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Posadas, Misiones, 20 Feb (TELAM) -- Ricardo Barrios Arrechea, the Radical Civic Union [UCR] second vice president, has given a detailed report on the meeting that the UCR leadership held a few days ago with President Reynaldo Bignone. They discussed issues concerning the stages to achieve the institutionalization of the country, the Beagle, the Malvinas, missing peoples, those arrested and put at the disposal of the executive branch, the foreign debt, the normalization of union activities and the floods affecting Misiones Province, among other issues.

Barrios Arrechea, who was accompanied by the members of the UCR Provincial Committee, told journalists that political parties must be completely reorganized by 30 June and that according to what President Bignone and Interior Minister Llamil Reston noted in the meeting, the electoral law will have been approved by that date. Barrios Arrechea added: "Elections will probably be held in the third week of October, and the transfer of power will be within 90-days after the elections are held. During that interim the electoral colleges and the Legislative Assembly will meet. The UCR leader said that in keeping with the stages of the institutionalization process party registrations will end on 30 March while party membership lists will have to be submitted by 30 May.

The UCR leader said that the report on the conflict for the recovery of the Malvinas Islands is being drafted, and "it will be ready before May." Regarding the Beagle issue with Chile, Barrios Arrechea noted that although the papal proposal is much better than the arbitration of the British crown, the present political circumstances apparently make it unfavorable. Regarding the foreign debt, he said that figures between $47, and $38 billion were mentioned. Barrios Arrechea said: "Minister Llamil Reston denied a recent report about the shipment of Exocet missiles to Argentina from the port of Marseille."

MID Leadership

PY221800 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1137 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (NA) -- During this new round of political dialogue, the leadership of the Integration and Development Movement (MID), headed by former president Arturo Frondizi, has requested that President Reynaldo Bignone implement a change in the economic policy and that the problem of the missing be cleared up.

The MID has also asked for an explanation regarding the causes of the Malvinas war and for a quick solution to the border problem with Chile over the Beagle Channel.

The MID leadership has also emphasized to Bignone that a modification in the economic policy is "necessary in order to create the necessary tranquillity that is needed for the handing over of the government." Moreover, the MID has indicated to the chief of the executive branch that "there is a need to shorten the deadlines up to the time of the elections" and that these deadlines must be implemented "without excluding anyone."

The abovementioned was reported by Frondizi at the end of the meeting that he held, together with other party leaders, yesterday afternoon at the president's residence in Olivos, Greater Buenos Aires.

Progressive Democratic Party

PY221756 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1155 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (NA) -- The Progressive Democratic Party [PDP] has, during the meeting it had with President Reynaldo Bignone, demanded that the elections for national, provincial and municipal authorities be carried out in stages and it has indicated that it favors consultations with the political leadership in order to resolve the Beagle problem before the assumption of the constitutional government. The PDP also maintains that proportional representation must be the basis of the electoral system.

The leader of the PDP, Rafael Martinez Raymonda, at the end of his meeting with Bignone, said that "we placed emphasis on the implementation of the system of proportional representation, without hybrid mixtures; any other system distorts the will of the people." This system permits political groups that have very little electoral force to have access to Congress.

Regarding the disagreement with Chile over the southern area, Martinez Raymonda reported that "we told the president that this matter must be resolved by the current government, but the solution must be in agreement with the political leadership that emerges from the upcoming process of normalization."

Regarding the economic situation, the PDP has demanded "economic reactivation through public works, especially in the sectors that have a greater multiplying effort, such as housing."

Another of the PDP's requests was related to the arms conflict over the South Atlantic islands and Martinez Raymonda said that "we indicated to the government that it must investigate all the responsibility regarding this episode that was so sorrowful for the nation."

The PDP also requested a "reasonable explanation by the government regarding the matter of the missing. "But everything that is done in this field," he stressed, "must be carried out on the basis of national reconciliation and not with a spirit of revenge that will only open new wounds in Argentine society."

Regarding the foreign debt, the PDP indicated to Bignone that there is the need for the government to report on its origin and details "outside of the margin of error of the computers," Martinez Raymondo said in an ironical tone.

VELARDE DORADO DEPARTS FOR ANDEAN PACT SESSION

PY231540 Paris AFP in Spanish 1503 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] La Paz, 23 Feb (ZFP) -- Mario Velarde Dorado, the Bolivian foreign minister, said here today, before travelling to Colombia, that Bolivia is ready to adopt firm positions during the Andean Pact foreign ministers meeting that begins today in Bogota.

The minister indicated that during the meeting the Andean foreign ministers will study the bloc's position regarding the upcoming UNCTAD meeting, which will take place in Belgrade during June 1983. It has also been learned that Velarde Dorado will take advantage of his trip to hold important meetings with representatives of the Latin American economic system which has decided to expand to the maximum its cooperation with Bolivia.

3,000 PUBLIC SERVANTS MARCH, DEMAND UNIONS

PY240117 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Summary] Over 3,000 public servants marched in a demonstration today, demanding that the government legalize, once and for all, the forming of unions in their sector; improve the economic situation of the workers; and immediately introduce continuous working hours. The rally before the march took place in Plaza San Francisco and the demonstrators then marched along Mariscal Santa Cruz Avenue and Ayacucho Street to Plaza Murillo. Public administration was practically paralyzed when the employees left for the rally. Most ministries closed at 1500.

LABOR MINISTER DENIES MINIMUM WAGE PROMISE

PY230128 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] At no time did the government promise that it would implement a minimum wage after the 100-day truce, according to a statement made by our Labor Minister Roberto Arnez. He said so when entering the Palacio Quemado [government palace]. Minister Roberto Arnez, member of the Bolivian Communist Party, stated the following on the minimum wage:

[Begin Arnez recording] Regarding the minimum wage with an adjustable scale, it is known that at no time did the government of the nation say that it would implement it at the end of the 100 days. The government has always said that the adjustable scale would be applied when that term ended. We are not trying to do this [words indistinct] the adjustable scale as a measure to solve the problem of price increases and the reduction of the purchasing power of the salaries. [end recording]

REPORTAGE ON MURDERS DURING BANZER REGIME

Roncal: 'The Bodies Do Exist'

PY231652 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Mario Roncal has refuted some statements made by Nationalist Democratic Action members to the effect that crimes for political reasons were not committed during General Banzer's government. The bodies exist, the minister said, insinuating that General Banzer is involved in the crimes.

[Begin Roncal recording] In the first place the commission for missing person, created by a decree signed by the executive branch, is an autonomous commission embracing many institutions. It does not depend directly on the government, although it has been created by the government. But, above all, the bodies do exist. This is the reply we can give to those statements which imply that something is being invented. The bodies are real. [end recording]

COB: Hundreds 'Tortured and Murdered'

PY232132 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] issued a document this morning on the discovery of the bodies of 14 persons who disappeared during the government of Hugo Banzer Suarez. In turn, Banzer denied that they died under his regime and attributed the disappearance of several persons to home abandonment because of marital problems.

In the four-point document, the COB recalls that Banzer's fascist regime was established by strongly repressing the people's and workers' movements. It adds that workers, students and laborers were murdered on the streets of La Paz, and that San Andres University was machinegunned.

On the pretext of fighting extremism, the Banzer government persecuted and detained hundreds of workers and professionals. They were tortured and murdered in the dungeons of dictatorship.

The document adds that thousands of persons were banished into exile and that many leaders were sent to Pinochet's Chile. The raping of women was very common. Democratic and union rights were denied and government rule ignored the national Constitution.

In its third point the document states that at the time the COB reported the disappearance of citizens from the dungeons of fascism, such as co-worker (Dario Arroyo), leader of the miners' cooperatives, and Mr (Enrique Ortega), a professional, whose bodies were found. Thus, the COB states, the atrocities committed by the Banzer regime and by his interior minister, Mario Adet Zamora, were proven. These and others are being pointed out as the main culprits of these serious murders.

The document concludes by stating that the COB demands that the perpetrators of these crimes receive exemplary punishment, and repudiates the remarks made by the main culprit, Hugo Banzer Suarez, who is trying to show that he is not guilty of these crimes or having dragged our country into its most serious economic crisis, the consequences of which we are now enduring.

MIR DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC PLAN

PY230202 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, states in a document released today that neither that party nor the Democratic and Popular Unity, UDP, can take the responsibility for the new economic measures, since they have not participated in the study or decision-making process for those measures. The press statement, handed to the news media and signed by Antonio Aranibar Quiroga and Oscar Eid Franco, members of the Executive Committee of the MIR National Board, says:

The national government is trying to distract the attention of the public and to burden the UDP with the responsibility for the new economic measures. We cannot keep silent in the face of this, something which has led us to sign this statement.

The document continues: The unfortunate results for the economy of the policy imposed by the palace clique and supported by the parties still remaining in the government are now becoming clearly visible. We are facing a return to improvisation in which the lack of a program for economic recovery and strengthening cannot be concealed with showy political acts or by creating the false impression that the UDP is working.

Since the moment when the MIR was excluded from the government, the UDP National Executive Committee [Comite Ejecutivo Nacional -- CIN] has not been called for a single meeting to discuss political matters or, still less, to deal with the economic problem.

The MIR document concludes: We have patiently and patriotically waited until today for the convening of the CIN of the UDP, but nothing has occurred. This has led us to take our first stand in defense of the economy of the people and the nation.

1980 MILITARY JUNTA LEADERS TO STAND TRIAL

PY231445 Paris AFP in Spanish 0428 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] La Paz, 22 Feb (AFP) -- It was reported here today that the members of the military junta that headed the 17 July 1980 coup, Generals Luis Garcia Meza, Waldo Bernal Pereira and Ramiro Terrazas, will stand trial as of next week in the Supreme Military Court of Justice. They have been accused of the illegal exploitation of semiprecious and precious stones in the Gaiba area, on the border with Brazil.

The report was released by Gen Rafael Tapia Montano, president of that military court, who stated that there are a total of 12 persons, officers and commanders, involved in the crime, which has been termed delicto flagranti.

Regarding this matter, it must be recalled that the Gaiba scandal was a determining factor in obtaining Garcia Meza's resignation as chief of state in August 1981. Garcia Meza, together with some of his aides, had signed an agreement with a Brazilian firm for the exploitation of precious stones in the Gaiba area, with the payments going into the personal accounts of the three commanders in chief.

5 DEAD, 23 WOUNDED IN TERRORIST ATTACK IN ORURO

PY220127 Paris AFP in Spanish 2256 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] La Paz, 21 Feb (AFP) -- A terrorist attack resulting in 5 dead and 23 wounded took place yesterday, Sunday, in the city of Oruro (230 km south of this capital), it was reported here today.

The attack, which was similar to those which preceded the July 1980 military coup, occurred when a grenade exploded in El Limbo, a building located in the heart of Oruro, where a carnival party was taking place.

The police announced that they will take every required action to clear up the crime and to punish those responsible with the full weight of the law.

Although no organization has claimed to have carried out the attack, the police believe it may have been an action designed to sow fear and confusion among the people to destabilize the democratic government.

SOVIETS TO JOIN COUSTEAU IN AMAZON RESEARCH

PY230139 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Feb 83 p 4

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- The Soviets will also participate in the research carried out in the Amazon region, as revealed by French Professor Jean Jacques Cousteau on leaving Alvorada Palace at the end of a meeting with President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo. Cousteau thanked the president for the support granted to the expedition carried out by the oceanographic ship "Calypso" in the Amazon region.

According to Cousteau, the Brazilian Government has already authorized the participation of the Soviets, and the director of the Moscow Oceanographic Institute has announced the sending of a ship to join the expedition of the "Calypso" in a new stage, because the "Calypso" was also authorized to continue its expedition until June 1983. Moreover, $1.6 million were granted for this research.

GUERREIRO SPEAKS ON LAIA OBJECTIVES, ECONOMICS

PY240106 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Speaking today at the opening session of the first meeting of the National Commission for LAIA [Latin American Integration Association] matters, Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro stated that an activity focusing on the future demands a great deal of creative imagination that will allow for the possibility of building a solid and effective regional system which will reduce Latin American vulnerability to the crisis created abroad.

In 1981, LAIA absorbed 18 percent of Brazilian exports, but the foreign minister stated that it would be unrealistic to expect a very good performance of the association in a short term in view of the worrisome, confusing international situation Latin American countries are facing, which to a greater or lesser degree are the same problems which have affected Brazil. The foreign minister added that the common problems of all developing countries with a high inflation rate, an uneven balance of payments and high foreign debts are being aggravated by a worldwide crisis which is accompanied by a recession threat and a new outbreak of protectionism.

On concluding, Saraiva Guerreiro stressed LAIA's objectives:

[Begin Saraiva Guerreiro recording] LAIA's foremost objective is not to promote the immediate use of trade opportunities but to identify new possibilities for long lasting trade, thus allowing the achievement of planned national objectives. The idea is to achieve continuing profits through continuing trade and not through spectacular short-term deals, which are few in number. Typical examples of tasks achieved are the old adjustments of industrial complementation, now turned into [words indistinct] of LAIA, thus overcoming the [words indistinct] which are the guidelines for the instruments of the new association. [end recording]

DECREE-LAW IMPOSES WITHOLDINGS ON ORTN'S

PY232202 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Feb 83 p 33

[Brazilian Presidential Decree-Law Number 2014 of 21 February 1983]

[Text] The nation's president, exercising the authority conferred on him by article 55, item II, of the national Constitution. decrees:

Article 1 - The exchange value of ORTN's [National Treasury Readjustable Orders] with an optional clause for redemption with exchange correction whose exchange value exceeds their nominal monetary correction are, as of 17 Feburary 1983, subject to income tax withholdings by the purchasing agent at the time of their negotiation, in the following percentages:

A) Forty five (45) percent on ORTN's maturing in 1983;

B) Thirty (30) percent on ORTN's that mature beginning in 1984.

Article 2 - In the 1984 and following business years, the exceeding value determined as established in article 1 of this decree-law will be considered taxable income for individuals, or taxable profit for legal persons who are now exempted from income tax under legislation in force.

Single paragraph -- For the purpose of this article, the percentage established in article 24, clause 1 decree-law Number 1967 of 23 November 1982 will be applied to legal persons who are now exempted.

Article 3. The income tax withholding referred to in article 1 will be applied to persons as an advance income tax payment in the business year.

Single paragraph -- In cases provided for in this article, the provision of article 2 of decree-law Number 1968 of 23 November 1982 will not be applied to individuals, and the provision of the main paragraph of article 14 of decree-law Number 1967 of 23 November 1982 will be applied to legal persons.

Article 4 -- The provisions of this decree-law will not apply to normal foreign exchange hedging operations in the form established by the CMN [National Monetary Council].

Article 5 -- The finance minister will issue regulations for operational procedures which may be necessary for the implementation of this decree-law.

Article 6 -- This decree-law will go into effect on the date of its publication, and all provisions to the contrary are cancelled.

Brasilia, 21 February 1983, 162nd year of independence and 95th year of the republic.

Seplan Announces Measures

PY231807 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Feb 83 p 33

[Text] In addition to measures applying to the ORTNs [Readjustable Orders of the National Treasury], the Seplan [Planning Secretariat of the Presidency] has decided to adopt a series of measures supplementing the maxidevaluation of the cruzeiro announced last Friday. These measures were made public through a Seplan note at the end of several meetings held between Planning Minister Delfim Netto and Finance Minister Ernane Galveas at Planalto Palace. According to the Seplan note, no tax has been imposed on ORTNs subject to exchange correction. However, a presidental decree-law, which was released to the press, establishes that there will be withholdings applied to ORTNs on the difference between exchange correction and monetary correction. These withholdings -- which will be compensated for in the income tax declarations at the end of the year -- will be 45 percent in 1983 and 30 percent in subsequent years.

The other measures announced at the end of those meetings are the following: 1) Reduction from 25 to 15 percent on IOF [Financial Operations Tax] levied on imports of basic raw materials. A draft resolution on this will be submitted to the CMN [National Monetary Council]. The same proposal maintains the 25 percent tax on imports of machinery and equipment in order to adequately protect national industry.

2) A maximum 20 percent export tax will be charged to protect the external price of Brazilian products. There are also 0 and 10 percent tax categories depending on the kinds of products.

3) During the next 2 weeks, the BNDES [National Economic and Social Development Bank] will prepare three new programs to support private domestic enterprises. A) Funpar [expansion unknown] -- a program designed to reinforce the working capital of enterprises through the substitution of debentures: B) Proex [expansion unknown) -- a program for providing investment rsources for the expansion or creation of export capacity of businesses, and C) Prosim [expansion unknown] -- a program for financing investments to promote import substitution.

These three programs will give priority attention to national enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, which are now affected by large additional financial obligations on their foreign debts.

The Seplan note ends by saying that these supplementary measures are in line with the basic objective of the maxidevaluation, which is accelerating the process of adjustment of the balance of payments while raising the level of employment through the expansion of exports and import substitution.

ARMY ANNOUNCES MOVES TO MODERNIZE M-41 TANKS

PY240141 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Feb 83 p 6

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Within 3 years, the Army's 250 M-41 tanks will be more powerful and refitted with 100 percent national equpment. At the moment, the Bernardini firm is working on the modernization of the second lot of approximately 50 tanks of the Santa Catarina 5th Tank Regiment.

This project is part of the main goal to be achieved by the Army, which is to modernize and nationalize as soon as possible its equipment, so as to make them more operational. The new Bernardini tank, according to an Army Ministry source, is a big step in this regard because it will become a better and more effective tank than the M-41 A tank, which is currently used by the army.

In this project, Bernardini and military engineers are practically developing a new tank, which will use several parts of the older tank, with greater fuel economy and many new parts. The main differences between the two tanks consist of the replacement of the 76 mm cannon by a 90 mm cannon, different communications equipment and an engine which will be entirely of domestic make.

OFFICIALS DEPART FOR CARTAGENA, SELA MEETING

PY231734 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Sergio Covarrubias has left for Cartagena, Colombia, where he will attend a Latin American Economic System, SELA, meeting. Also representing Chile at the meeting, which will be held on 25, and 26 February, are Andres Concha, the director of the Foreign Ministry International Relations Department, and (Uldaricio Figueroa), the director of the Foreign Ministry Multilateral Policy Department.

The objective of the SELA meeting is to study some of the proposals that Latin American countries hope to submit at the next UNCTAD meeting which is scheduled to be held in Belgrade in June.

Minutes before his departure, Sergio Covarrubias noted that Chile will not make any proposals at this meeting and that it will merely study those submitted by other countries. Moreover, he noted that the subjects to be studied pertain exclusively to economic issues.

Covarrubias will return to Chile during the first week of March after visiting Bogota, Colombia.

ARGENTINA CALLED TO RESPOND ON PAPAL PLAN

Schweitzer Views Beagle Issue

PY230116 Paris AFP in Spanish 2223 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Santiago, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Chilean Foreign Minister Miguel Schweitzer stated today that Argentina must clearly state its position regarding the mediation proposal of Pope John Paul II on the conflict between the two countries over the Beagle Channel.

The pope has asked for a yes or no answer, and we are waiting for that answer, Schweitzer stated, referring to the proposal presented by the mediator on 12 December 1980.

Reports coming from the Argentine capital have indicated, however, that the military authorities want to postpone that answer, thus transferring the final decision to the civilian government that will emerge from the elections scheduled for this year.

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The new foreign minister, who assumed his functions on Monday of last week, came to grips with remarks made by Buenos Aires Cardinal Archbishop Juan Carlos Aramburu, who said that Argentina had been answering since the proposal was presented.

In his remarks to the Catholic magazine ESQUIU, Monsignor Aramburu stated that Argentina wants to straighten out several aspects of the proposal to make the whole thing clearer, so there will be greater guarantees for a lasting peace.

Schweitzer stated, however, that the pope's proposal, accepted by Chile in January 1981, includes all the peace-making elements.

Schweitzer also denied a report by the Argentine magazine SIETE DIAS on the hoisting of an Argentine flag on Picton Island, south of the Beagle Channel, considered Chilean territory in the arbitration of 1977.

The Argentine flag was not hoisted on Picton Island, but on the northern part of the channel, on Argentine territory, Schweitzer stated.

The foreign minister and the diplomats who participated in the talks in Rome before the mediator, begun a number of working meetings on Monday to study the state of this process, which began toward the end of 1978 when the Holy See intervened to prevent a war between the two nations.

Chilean ambassador to Argentina Sergio Onofro Japra returned over the weekend to Santiago to participate in these meetings.

Carvajal Expresses Hopes

PY221540 Paris AFP in Spanish 0134 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Santiago, 19 Feb (AFP) -- Today, Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal expressed his hope that a prompt and just solution will be found to the dispute with Argentina over the Beagle Channel. Carvajal stated that we hope that a solution that is painless, that will cause no grudges and that will permit a friendly and harmonic development will be arrived at as soon as possible.

The defense minister stated that this does not mean that we are turncoats [entreguistas]. We, he said, want to defend what the law, history and the treaties consider as Chilean territory. Vice Admiral Carvajal stated that Chile is much better prepared defense-wise than in 1978, when we underwent a difficult situation with Argentina in the wake of the southern border demarcation dispute.

Undoubtedly the danger to which our country was exposed caused us to improve our national defense and I believe that it is now much more efficient than 4 years ago. The 100-years old Beagle Channel dispute was entrusted to Pope John Paul II at the end of 1978. The pope's peace proposal, which was submitted to the two governments in December 1980, was accepted by Chile and rejected by Argentina.

HAVANA SCOFFS AT LATEST CABINET SHUFFLE

PA201825 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] For the 32d time in the 9 years and 5 months that he has been the head of Chile's fascist regime, Gen Augusto Pinochet has reorganized his cabinet, amid a serious and prolonged economic crisis, popular opposition and a manifest lack of confidence from sectors that supported the bloody 1973 coup.

Pinochet appointed 6 new ministers, replacing some who were considered officially to be key men to date, and confirmed the other 11 in their posts. All of the latter are officers in the Armed Forces and in the Carabinero Police force.

Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames, who filled the post for 3 years, was dismissed for disagreeing with the head of the Chilean military dictatorship about the policy to be followed in human rights, an issue over which the Chilean authorities have been criticized for 9 consecutive years by the UN General Assembly and other international organizations.

Banker Rolf Luders was removed from the posts of economy and finance. His appointment, less than 6 months ago, was officially considered at the time to be the best way to restore confidence in the eroded free market political system. Luders was called to Santiago even before he had completed a tour of Tokyo, London, Bonn and Washington to renegotiate amortizations for this year and next of Chile's foreign debt, which totals almost $19 billion, most of which was contracted for by the private sector.

Pinochet's former two-post minister, who enjoyed broad authority was accused by opposition sectors of favoring private financial groups by pledging state support, in his negotiations with international banks, for the payment of the debts of banking companies that are either attacked or liquidated because of their inability to meet their commitments.

The new ministerial changes, which also affect the posts of education, justice and the secretary general of government, offer no solution to the crisis and, indeed, dash the hopes of some political sectors that expected an alleged democratic opening and changes in economic policy.

After swearing in his ministers, Pinochet reaffirmed that the motor of national development, in his words, will continue to be private enterprise. He insisted that the crisis is being overcome. He said that the new cabinet's mission will be to guide and invigorate the process of economic reactivation, words similar to those that he used at the time of the last cabinet reshuffle.

Even to those who are completely ignorant of economic issues it is obvious that the picture that Chile presents today shows now the slightest sign of any alleged economic reactivation, much less the fulfillment of the promises of prosperity made by the military authorities.

In 1982, Chile suffered a decline of 14 percent in its gross national product, the largest drop in Latin America. It had the highest employment rate: 30 percent of the labor force. It also faces an average of two business bankruptcies a day, the destruction of its productive and agricultural foundations and a complete debacle in finance.

The thunderous collapse of Chile's economic miracle is irrefutable, as is the failure of all the neo-liberal theories that are formulated by the imperialists to justify their continued plundering and exploitation of the underdeveloped countries.

MONTERO PROMISES NEW LIST OF RETURNING EXILES

PY231442 Paris AFP in Spanish 0457 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 23 Feb (AFP) -- Interior Minister Gen Enrique Montero reported today that the Chilean Government will release another list of exiled persons who will be able to return to the country during the first week of March.

The list, which is currently being revised, includes between 150 and 170 persons, the minister stated.

Asked about the possibility of allowing some political leaders to return at the same time, Minister Montero said: "I would have to examine the list. At this time I do not have it on hand."

The list will be released within the next few days and it is the third list to be released since President Augusto Pinochet made his decision on this matter.

BETANCUR TAX MEASURES HELD UNCONSTITUTIONAL

PA240211 Paris AFP in Spanish 0202 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Bogota, 24 Feb (AFP) -- The tax measures decreed due to the economic emergency during the last 3 months by the conservative Colombian President Belisario Betancur were tonight declared unconstitutional when the magistrates voted 13 to 11 to overturn them. The report was broadcast by the private CARACOL Radio Network.

HAVANA DISCUSSES LIST OF PERSONS LINKED TO MAS

PA220207 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The Colombia attorney general's office has issued a list of 163 persons, including 59 active members of the Armed Forces, who have been linked to the terrorist group that calls itself Death to Kidnappers, MAS.

Among those implicated are Col (Hernando Barrio Belandia Hurtado), commander of the patriots battalion; Col (Emilio Gil Bermudez), chief of the 10th operational command in Cimitarra, in the Colombian Department of Caquet; as well as two majors and other officers.

Since the attorney general had not released names in a previous report, political observers feel that the publication of the list is a direct reply to Gen Gustavo Matamoros D'Costa, commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, who denied that there are military personnel involved with the MAS terrorist gang. The investigation into the MAS terrorist gang was ordered directly by Colombian President Belisario Betancur Cuartas to clarify reports made by various organizations to the effect that MAS death squads have killed 103 and kidnapped almost 200 Colombian citizens.

FARC AMBUSHES PURSUING ARMY PATROL, HELICOPTER

PA181228 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Feb 83

[Text] Bogota -- In a few minutes troops from the 9th Army Brigade stationed in the south of the country will resume their search for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, guerrillas who ambushed a military patrol yesterday, killing an officer and two soldiers, and who shot down a helicopter.

The attack on a military convoy took place in the area of Campo Hermoso, in the jurisdiction of San Vicente de Caguan. The FARC's fourth front, composed of some 150 men, seized the town on Tuesday, kidnapping two people and looting stores and public offices.

Southern operation command troops attached to the 9th brigade launched a search for the guerrillas yesterday, but one of the patrols was ambushed. Capt Jose de Jesus Garavito, commander of the patrol, and soldiers Efrain Rosero and Jose Cobos were killed in the ambush. Two other soldiers identified as Gildardo Bolanos and Jose Portilla were seriously wounded.

FINAL DOCUMENT ON YEACYRETA PROJECT SIGNED

PY230122 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The negotiations between the Argentine and Paraguayan companies and the representatives of the foreign consortium Impregilo-Dumez finished in Buenos Aires last night with the signing of the final document. It stipulates for the Paraguayan companies a 15.25-percent shareholding participation and the awarding to them of all works on the Paraguayan mainland, which makes up about 15 percent of the whole project. The Argentine companies, in turn, obtained 34.75 percent of the shareholding participation and 15 percent of the total volume of the main civil engineering works of the future hydroelectric dam.

CONGRESS APPROVES STROESSNER'S REELECTION

PY240132 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 8

[Excerpt] Since there were no objections to the documents containing the results of the elections held on 6 February, congress approved them outright this morning. Congress also declared Gen Alfredo Stroessner, the ANR [National Republican Association, Colorado Party] candidate, president of the republic for the 1983-88 period.

Based on the decision by the special congressional ad-hoc committee, which unanimously voted for the approval of the documents containing the results of the 6 February elections, congress approved the documents during a session held this morning. A resolution was also passed declaring Gen Alfredo Stroessner, the ANR candidate, president for the 1983-88 constitutional period.

The session, which lasted about 20 minutes, was presided over by Senator Juan Ramon Chavez. A remarkable absence was that of Liberal Party leader Fulvio Hugo Celauro, who ran for president on 6 February. Both the public and political observers believe that the Liberal Party was the great loser in the last elections.

PRF PRESIDENT HEADS NATIONAL ACCORD BOARD

PY222021 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 83 p 12

[Text] The transfer of the Presidency of the National Accord (AN) Coordinating Board was held yesterday during a brief ceremony in the headquarters of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF). The AN Presidency is now in the hands of Alarico Quinonez Cabral.

The ceremony was held at 1100 with the attendance of the presidents of the parties that make up the AN except the members of the Popular Colorado Movement (Mopoco) who are in exile.

Outgoing as President Romulo Perina handed over the AN Presidency to Quinonez, who will hold this position for 4 months.

USSR 'WILL KEEP' PROMISE TO FINANCE OLMOS

PY231447 Lima EL DIARIO DE MARKA in Spanish 16 Feb 83 p 6

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to our country Leonid Kuzmin stated yesterday that his country will keep its promise to participate in the financing of the Olmos project. Bids will open in July, he stated.

On being asked by reporters on his country's interest in the project, the Soviet ambassador stated: "On the Peruvian side, I do not know, but on our side, the commitment made in 1973 prevails."

There was an exchange of documents during the government of General Velasco Alvarado to firm up the financing of this important project.

Kuzmin said that they were willing to participate at least with the consortium of the four socialist countries which are willing to totally finance the Olmos project.

The Soviet ambassador made these remarks at the Jorge Chavez International Airport where he was awaiting the arrival of a Soviet delegation who made a stopover in Lima on their way to Bolivia.

Senator Jorge del Prado was also present at the airport to receive the body of his son Jose Carlos who died in the Soviet Union on Saturday of a duodenal ulcer.

His son's body will arrive on Thursday, however, according to Soviet representatives.

COMMUNIST DEPUTY DEMANDS RINCON RESIGN

PY231623 Lima EL DIARIO DE MARKA in Spanish 10 Feb 83 p 2

[Excerpt] Deputy Manuel Dammert [Revolutionary Communist Party] stated yesterday that Interior Minister Fernando Rincon Bazo "breaks the laws and insults the Congress by submitting a report in which he tries to blame the mineworkers for something for which the police forces under his command are guilty, according to all witnesses."

In a letter sent to Senator Sandro Mariategui, president of the Senate and of the standing Congress Commission, Dammert gave a detailed report of what had really happened on 27 January when he, Deputy Emeterio Tacuri and dozens of mineworkers were brutally beaten and several of the latter were wounded by bullets.

Dammert said that the offense committed by Rincon becomes much more serious "if it is taken into account that it occurs at a time when at least a minimum of credibility is required. What can now be expected from any kind of report or investigation, such as that referring to the murder of the eight newsmen in Ayacucho?" he asked.

He called Rincon a coward who should resign, because "if this minister is kept on, he may become a symbol of self-destruction. He is a fascist," he said.

He argued that Rincon has become a tool of U.S. repression, that the Interior Ministry is in fact led by Civil Guard General Balaguer and the intelligence services by the CIA.

NIGERIA'S DECISION TO CUT OIL PRICES 'DEPLORED'

PA230852 Paris AFP in Spanish 1941 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Caracas, 21 Feb (AFP) -- Venezuela today officially deplored Nigeria's decision to lower its oil price, when Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Berti said in Caracas that the decision was "deplorable and unfortunate."

Calderon Berti said that Nigeria is not only an important nation within OPEC, it is currently president of that organization.

Calderon Berti added: "We all have a commitment to OPEC, and any decisions that have to be made as members of OPEC should be made within the organization. We would have preferred to have the Nigerians present their problems within the organization, and for them to have made their decision after discussing their problems within OPEC."

The Venezuelan minister said that Venezuela had consulted several OPEC member countries in the past few hours. He added: "We have received several suggestions, and it is possible that a solution to the situation will be found in the next few days."

PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE ON OIL, CURRENCY

PA230218 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2312 GMT 21 Feb 83

[News conference granted by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins at Miraflores Palace in Caracas -- live]

[Excerpts] [Herrera Campins] We have always followed very carefully the progress of the domestic and international events that affect our economy, finances and government revenue. Last week we experienced an abnormal flight of foreign currency, of which there had been an indication during the previous weeks. There was also a series of threats regarding oil production and a possible drop in the price of oil. This obliged me to ask the finance minister, who was then in Germany, to return to the country to evaluate the negotiations he had held so far, not only for what we might call the refinancing of the foreign debt, but for the renegotiation of the debt, and consider this situation in general.

Later Great Britain lowered the price of its oil. Then Nigeria lowered the price of its oil. Nigeria currently holds the presidency of OPEC. There was a whole campaign of threats, rumors and misinformation capable of misguiding the people through some international news agencies. All this has forced us to very seriously, objectively and thoroughly examine Venezuela's economic and exchange situation.

The political, technical and economic teams have been meeting practically every day to unravel the real elements of the situation and to determine their effect or scope. We consider it a nationalistic and patriotic duty to have adopted the measure of which you are already aware, that is, of stopping the sale of foreign currency on Monday and Tuesday, 21-22 February.

An antinational, unpatriotic and insidious campaign had been started in the states of Yaracuy, Lara, Merida and Zulia and partially in Caracas, consisting of telephoned rumors urging the people to withdraw their money from some banks. This was probably done to create confusion and fear among the Venezuelan people. This is why we added these 48 hours to the weekend, in order to make a more thorough study of the situation to determine what measures we should take this week.

The Venezuelan people can rest assured that the government is very seriously studying the situation, and that whatever measures are adopted will be those that it considers, over any other considerations, the most appropriate for the country under the difficult circumstances that the economy of the world, the continent and the country and the oil market are experiencing.

[Question] Mr President, as you said, there is great expectation regarding the measures that the government is going to adopt to end this climate of lack of confidence and to stabilize the level of foreign currency reserves. Can you tell us whether these measures could include a devaluation or exchange controls and, if so, as some politicians have said, in case exchange controls are established, would this not imply a disguised devaluation.

[Answer] I have already said that we are considering the situation as a whole, and the measures will be announced after they are adopted, after they have been approved by the president of the republic in the Council of Ministers. In the meantime, we will advance nothing. I would be very pleased if the social communications media would not put their very prolific imaginations to work to speculate on the scope that these measures might have.

[Question] It is really difficult to establish priorities today in our questions due to the many important news items both at home and abroad. However, as you have said, there is something that demands our attention -- the spreading of rumors and the manipulation and distortion of information by the news transnationals. Does the government have effective controls to counteract this great offensive that does so much harm to our country?

[Answer] You know that it is very difficult to control a campaign such as we have been experiencing, especially in a democratic country where the freedom of expression and thought is respected and guaranteed for all sectors. However, it must be exercised with restraint, discretion and without undermining the important interests of the country.

[Question by Luis Estribi, LA PRENSA, Panama] Mr President, the Panamanian people live in a constant state of anxiety, considering that the Central American violence could spread to Panama. We have always thought of Venezuela as an older brother and are somewhat discouraged because in the last few months Venezuela has sort of disqualified itself from its negotiating role in Central America. We would like to have your opinion on the possibility that this important negotiating role will be employed to benefit Central America.

[Answer] You have a very interesting question there. I must say that Venezuela has a democratic policy that is projected abroad as an institutionalization of freedom to stimulate and favor the democratization processes in the area. On the 25th anniversary of our own democratic process, it was pointed out that we should try to convert into reality the aspirations of the Central American countries and Panama in order to complete the democratization process in the area no later than the end of 1985.

Unquestionably the situation has been difficult, but Venezuela has had a consistent attidude of enthusiasm and support for the democratic forces beyond mere political banners, partisan interests or ideological interests. We are convinced that the path and inclination of our people is toward democracy. That is why a meeting was held recently on Contadora Island, Panama, among the foreign ministers of Colombia, Panama, Mexico and Venezuela to plan joint actions directed toward Central America. I believe that there are many possibilities. What has happened is that in the last few months there has been a campaign to destroy the possibilities of an understanding among the countries; but I believe that the countries are again beginning to understand that the solution is not of any one country, but has to be a joint action. In this respect the good offices of Venezuela are always at the disposal of the democratization of Central America and the Caribbean.

I regretted that our offer of good offices, those of former President Lopez Portillo and myself, to solve the tension between Honduras and Nicaragua did not receive the acceptance that was expected. However, I believe that Venezuela and the other democratic countries still have a great role to play in this.

[Question] What will Venezuela's position be on oil prices now that other OPEC countries are lowering their prices? Nigeria lowered its prices by $5.50, and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are threatening to lower theirs by $7.

[Answer] I would like you to be very careful on the matter of oil prices when interpreting the news, in order to differentiate between real news on measures already taken on prices, and stories that are simply rumors. Last night there was a bulletin that alarmed all of us, including myself, since I was still up. I was called to find out whether there was any truth to an alarming report concerning the possibility of a change in Saudi Arabia's oil price.

We have been maintaining that the unity and solidarity of OPEC require that we must try to reach an understanding on production and try to maintain prices to prevent price drops and a price war that would benefit no one. It would not benefit the OPEC countries because it would subject them to a series of uncertainties now being experienced by countries that are principally agricultural exporters, whose prices are manipulated at the whim of the great powers on the international markets. It would not even benefit the big countries because a dangerous drop in oil prices could disrupt their programs to find alternate sources of energy. Some have already been disrupted because it has been estimated that oil will be cheaper than the substitute, and this would obviate the need for the research.

We have considered it appropriate to try and reopen the followup [seguimiento] committee on OPEC production, which is an institutional body of which Venezuela is a member. We have received some suggestions regarding a consultation meeting, to which other countries have replied that it should be held only when there is a real possibility of consensus and when solutions can be reached. Our opinion is that talks must be held not only with the OPEC member countries -- and Venezuela is playing the role of transmitting messages within OPEC -- but also to hold talks with the other oil producing countries that are not members of OPEC, especially Mexico, where we are sending a high-level mission in the next few hours. It will probably be headed by Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti, and his office maintains direct and constant contact with all the OPEC member nations and transmits to me the information that is receives.

PRESIDENT, VENEZUELAN MINISTER DISCUSS OIL PRICES

FL231115 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0530 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid told a Venezuelan delegation today that all oil price adjustments should be made in an orderly manner, avoiding competitive reductions. The chief executive met with the Venezuelan delegation headed by Minister of Energy and Mines Humberto Calderon Berti. Calderon Berti delivered a message from President Luis Herrera Campins expressing concern over the situation in the world oil market and conveying his wishes that the two nations, working jointly, may contribute to the stabilization of the oil market.

At the meeting held at the Los Pinos official residence, the two sides stressed the need for oil producing countries, members and nonmembers of OPEC as well, to share in the responsibility of maintaining order in the oil market. They called for more dialogue and consultations between OPEC and other nations, such as Mexico, who are not OPEC members. After the talks, the two sides agreed that their two countries must make efforts to find a solution to the current oil market situation.

Calderon Berti and his delegation also met today with Francisco Labastida Ochoa, secretary of energy, mines and semistate industry, and Mario Ramon Beteta, Pemex director general. It was also announced that the Venezuelan delegation will continue technical-level talks with Pemex tomorrow and later will depart for Saudi Arabia to participate in talks currently underway in the Arabian Peninsula.

POLITICIANS VOICE VIEWS ON OIL, FOOD PRICES

FL230245 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0110 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Representatives of several political parties today agreed that in view of the world situation concerning the price of oil, Mexico will probably have to reduce its prices.

Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] deputies Hermenegildo Anguiano and Ruben Castro Ojeda noted that due to the fluctuation of the world energy market, the drop in prices in countries such as Nigeria and Great Britain will definitely have a repercussion in Mexico. Castro Ojeda indicated that the need for seeking formulas for the oil will not be a solution in facing up to the financial economic crisis, inasmuch as the country has minerals and food-stuffs. [as received] For his part, Hermanengildo Anguiano pointed out as pertinent the need for studying the possibility of Mexico joining OPEC, since it is an organization free of politics.

For his part, Mexico's United Socialist Party Deputy David Orozco stated that the time has come for Mexico to enter OPEC so that there may exist a free play in the price policy and a policy according to reality.

Meanwhile, Antonio Aceves Torres of the PRI said he would support the federal government if it holds the line in prices of products in the so-called basic food basket, as in the case of tortillos which are a basic staple of the Mexican people. Aceves Torres criticized speculation, hoarding and price increase of products which are part of the Mexican people's diet, and in addition he said it is necessary to protect economically the country's needy classes. He reiterated the need for the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development to reduce the price of the basic food basket, and said he favored prosecution in cases of store closings and speculation.

REACTION CONTINUES ON PAREDES' AMBASSADOR LETTER

Protection for Embassy Urged

PA231650 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Feb 83

["The Word" commentary program with Mayin Correa]

[Excerpts] Regarding Ambassador Briggs' letter and Paredes' letter to Briggs -- because now there are two; we cannot speak of only one letter because now there are two -- today the Panamanian communists and those accompanying them plan to stage a demonstration at the U.S. Embassy. This demonstration has been announced and invitations have been extended to the National Federation of Democratic Women, Fenamude; the Federation of Panamanian Students, FEP; the Communist Party [PDP]; the Revolutionary Democratic Party, PRD; and the Popular Broad Front, Frampo, all traveling campanions, each for his own reason.

They have announced that they will stage a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy. What I did not know was that the PRD already said that it would be some 300 persons. The paper says that Monday night PRD members were shouting slogans and one of the speakers was PRD Secretary General Rigoberto Paredes, General Paredes' uncle. I didn't know that, did you? Some 300 persons staged a demonstration. Hopefully the security guards will provide security to the embassy, because if they are not given proper security, these communists are violent. They are probably armed with cans of paint. Poor Nilson Espino, he just pained the length of Balboa Avenue and today they will fill it with slogans: Yankee Imperialism, Down With the Yankees. Wait, I'll tell you what they will say, I know them by heart: Down With Yankee Imperialism; Down With the CIA; Briggs, Get Out.

Hopefully the U.S. Embassy will be given the security that is accorded to all others. Countries have an obligation to provide security to the embassies of those nations with which they have relations. They must be given protection. Therefore, we hope that the National Guard will provide sufficient security to the U.S. Embassy, thus fulfilling its commitment to all embassies.

March on Embassy Announced

PA231958 [Editorial Report] Panama City Radio Uno Soberana in Spanish at 1940 GMT on 23 February gives the following information regarding the upcoming demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in Panama City:

"At 1600, another march will leave from Plaza Porras, but this one will head toward Balboa Avenue; other sectors will march to denounce U.S. intervention in Panama."

The station had previously announced that some sectors would march to the Presidential Palace to protest the bad influence that video games have on Panamanian youth.

Demonstrators Support Paredes

PA240014 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] At 1800 today the Federation of Panamanian Students, FEP, demonstrated in front of the U.S. Embassy on Balboa Avenue against the U.S. ambassador and in support of General Ruben Dario Paredes and the position he assumed in his letter to the U.S. ambassador. Delegations from several popular organizations, which are still in front of the U.S. Embassy, participated in the demonstration.

'No Incidents' At Protest

PA240148 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0106 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Panama City, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Dozens of demonstrators this evening asked for the expulsion of U.S. Ambassador Everett Briggs, who stands accused of "overbearing intervention" in the affairs of Panama by National Guard chief General Ruben Dario Paredes. The demonstrators, convoked by the Federation of Panamanian Students (FEP), held hands as they surrounded the embassy in Panama City and shouted anti-imperialist slogans. In between the several speeches the demonstrators shouted "Briggs, CIA Agent" in unison, and almost 20 placards referred to "U.S. interventionist policy in Central America." Riot police guard the area during the demonstration at the embassy. The demonstration, which lasted almost an hour, obstructed traffic along Balboa Avenue, one of the city's most important thoroughfares. After the protest demonstration, eyewitnesses reported that there were no incidents.

Moscow Reports Demonstration

PY232340 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 22 Feb 83

[From the "Latin American Events" feature]

[Text] Hundreds of persons chanting Panama Yes, Yankees No staged a demonstration outside the American Embassy to demand the departure from the country of U.S. Ambassador Everett Briggs. A few days ago Ambassador Briggs was accused by Panamanian National Guard chief General Ruben Dario Paredes of meddling in the internal affairs of the National Guard. Mr Briggs visited two important military zones of the country, Chiriqui and Colon, and secretly attempted to contact the commanders of these military zones. Incidentally, this is a normal practice among U.S. ambassadors in Latin America. They act as though they were the owners of Latin American countries and depart from standard diplomatic procedures. This time, however, Ambassador Briggs' action provoked indignation among Panamanians. Jose Escobar, secretary general of the Federation of Panamanian Students, who headed the demonstration, said: Panama is small but it will never be another star on the U.S. flag.

General Paredes Statement

PA230256 Panama City Domestic Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Statement by Panamanian National Guard Commander General Ruben Dario Paredes; made "at noon today" in "his 50th Street office"; announced as political space paid for by the Democratic Revolutionary Party -- recorded]

[Text] When we made the firm decision to send that letter to the distinguished U.S. representative in Panama, Ambassador Briggs, we really did not think it would have the repercussions it has had. That decision was solely based on duty as a patriot and a nationalist, and the feelings of the Panamanian people who have traditionally maintained an honorable struggle on the well-known canal problem, which fortunately ended with the Torrijos-Carter treaty. This does not mean that a lot of blood was not spilled. We have buried many young Panamanian men and women who gave their lives for this cause. Nevertheless, as the letter explains it and as our actions show, both my actions and those of all the staff and the 11,000 men we command, our relatives [as heard], have never been anti-North American. We have always been friends of the U.S. gentlemen. We admire those people. We admire their leaders. For example, former President Carter has been invited to visit our country and he has accepted. He will be with us very soon because we are grateful to that man; he is found in the history of our republic alongside our dead brother, Omar Torrijos.

The recent events that provoked the letter are known. They were so noticeable that we could no longer continue to permit them. We do not see and we have never seen the ambassador of Brazil, for example, or the ambassadors of Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, or France making a visit or meddling in the affairs of the National Guard garrisons without requesting the due permission, as we also do when we visit military garrisons, even in the Canal Zone, and when we have gone to other countries. We have never seen ambassadors of other countries holding meetings, for example, in provincial governor's offices as occurred in Chiriqui Province.

As far as we in the National Guard are concern, we purify [acrisolamos], protect and guard this institution with much zeal because it is the center and balance of this country. It is an institution that has a development model and is linked to its people. We are zealous and we are going to continue to guard it. That is our mission. When we saw those unfortunately arrogant interferences with those officials, we had to issue a public call to prudence because generally through the diplomatic channels -- and that is why diplomatic channels exist -- those protests cool down, they get frozen and they don't have an impact. In the face of this obvious situation backed up with evidence, some of which was released to the media and some we have wanted to maintain undisclosed on behalf of harmony, we issued a call to the attention of the ambassador. We told him that he was living as a diplomat in a proud country, in a nation called Panama and that it is respected just as we respected the other friendly nations, the other nations where we have our diplomatic representatives.

We want to believe that the ambassador has received that letter with the due honesty that should characterize him. We do not want to prolong discussion, but I do want to say before finishing that these actions tremendously affect our morale and our feelings as Panamanians after we see other actions, of a few, fortunately, Panamanians that have no nationality. They forget the fatherland. They disregard everything that has occurred here for so many years to perfect our independence in exchange for the search for political power. They are thinking about the next elections; they are not thinking about future generations. How is it possible that these Panamanians are applauding this meddling of diplomats of any nationality? It doesn't matter that this time it was the U.S. ambassador. We are not going to permit this from any nationality or from our ambassadors representing Panama abroad. If that occurs in a friendly nation, our ambassador will be penalized because it is unforgivable interference.

We hope that the people will not let themselves, through the political militancy and the elections that are very near, be confused by the demagoguery and lies of some Panamanians and to then unfortunately and unhappily act against the fatherland's interests because of the in thirst and desire for political power. If I had to seek political power in exchange for surrendering my fatherland's dignity, you would never find me or any of my comrades there. [applause]

When a high-ranking U.S. official passes through here, these Panamanians run to ask for meetings and to complain and request candidacies be denied and other things and to request, why not say it, even armed interventions of the North Americans who we still have in this country until the year 2000. If these Panamanians are the leaders of part of this people, I tell the people, our people, that they should start looking for other leaders who love this fatherland because whoever continues to act in that manner is seeking other objectives that are not the best for this country or for the history that it deserves in the future.

We thank you very much on behalf of all the National Guard and the General Staff, which has always been very close to me. I had not expressed this to them so I take advantage of this opportunity to do so before you. I am very pleased about the support they have always given me, as they have this time. I especially thank you because you represent that dignity which is apparently absent in those gestures of those small Panamanians who have sold the soil where they were born, the land where our ancestors are buried: Panama. Thank you very much.

President's Action Urged

PA222228 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 1-A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] While the country was busy speculating on the reasons that motivated the unusual letter from General Paredes to Ambassador Briggs, the U.S. Embassy has issued a press communique in which it "rejects" the charges made in the message, which was "allegedly written by the commander of the National Guard." The embassy communique questions "the tone, content and conclusions" of the message. To complicate things even more, if this is possible, the National Guard's Public Relations and Information Office adds new elements of confusion with incredible accusations that U.S. diplomatic agents have tried to obtain classified military intelligence information from National Guard officers. In the meantime, the president -- who is constitutionally and legally responsible for our foreign policy -- remains silent concerning a matter which only he has the duty clarify. If the National Guard commander had legitimate doubt about the correctness of Ambassador Briggs' diplomatic behavior, he should have informed the president so the president could decide what was more appropriate and -- if the case so merited -- present the appropriate diplomatic protest note through the channels that the law, tradition, protocol and good taste demand. In any case, it is high time that the president break his silence, settle the controversy and fulfill his duty. The dignity of his position does not allow him to evade responsibility in the matter. Diplomatic standards authorize him, if necessary to request the ambassador's removal; in any event, his presidential powers give him the authority to immediate make effective the resignation that General Paredes presented to him some months ago.

PDC Leaders: Letter 'Unwise'

PA222240 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1210 GMT 22 Feb 83

[From the "For a True Democracy" program with Christian Democratic Party, PDC, President Ricardo Arias Calderon -- live]

[Excerpts] In the present context, I am trying to understand the notorious letter sent by General Paredes to the U.S. ambassador. I think that letter perplexes the thinking people in the country, first because of the very circumstances in which the letter was disclosed. It was released on a Saturday, when we would all be expected to be resting and to be separated from political concerns. It was released at a time when General Paredes -- according to many people who claim to have reliable information -- is convalescing after being hospitalized in a clinic for ailments that have not really been explained.

In the manner of the publication, there is a search for notoriety, a search for publicity, a haste, a lack of moderation in the very physical act of the publication of the letter, which has stunned the public and left the people perplexed. Why are we Panamanians perplexed over this letter? For several reasons: First of all, because it bypasses the Panamanian Foreign Ministry. A country's relations with the diplomatic corps are handled, or should be handled, exclusively through the Foreign Ministry. One of the charges that General Paredes makes to the U.S. ambassador is that the ambassador had failed to use the diplomatic channels of the Foreign Ministry. Yet the general himself, publicly and openly, commits the same misdeed that he has attributed to the U.S. ambassador.

The public is perplexed over this dismissal of the role of the Foreign Ministry and the fact that the president and the foreign minister are made to look ridiculous. There are reliable indications that on the same days, perhaps at the same time that this letter was being sent, the president and the U.S. ambassador were meeting in Chiriqui, because the two of them had happened to be there.

It is a normal thing for an ambassador who happens to be in a city of a region at the same time as the president of the republic to which he is accredited -- I repeat that it is absolutely normal and a matter of elementary courtesy -- to visit the president in recognition of the fact that this is the president before whom he is accredited.

At the same time that this was happening, the letter was being produced. What explanation can the president give in these circumstances? How is his authority affected? What a distressingly ridiculous situation he is placed in.

However, the perplexing aspects do not end there. The letter contains a kind of suggestion of mistrust, a feeling that somehow the ambassador would undermine the authority of the General Staff or the authority of the commander in chief. We are deeply perplexed in the face of the kind of relationship that appears to be established within the National Guard that leads a commander to reveal, almost without knowing it, that he mistrusts his officers.

Therefore, I think that General Paredes' letter has been a regrettable act for Panama, for the National Guard, and I fear for General Paredes himself, since his effectiveness as commander in chief, not to mention nis presidential aspirations, has been compromised by such an unwise, such an incredibly unwise initiative.

Paredes' Motives Questioned

PA222227 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 1-A

[By Vladimir Sandoval]

[Text] While the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) and the People's Party (communist) [PDP] express their support for General Paredes' letter to Ambassador Briggs regarding the ambassador's interventionist attitude in our country, the opposition Christian Democratis [PDC] and liberals condemn the Paredes letter in communiques released to the public yesterday.

The PRD members, who decided to declare themselves in permament session in order to keep abreast of the developments, stated through their secretary general, Rigoberto Paredes, that they have the organization and "speed of action required to mobilize in a matter of hours the number of people they want, to support the patriotic action of General Paredes." Asked about the legality of General Paredes' charge, which he made without going through Foreign Ministry channels, Rigoberto Paredes said that "In the face of the homeland's problems, how important is it that a mere formality has not been observed."

Meanwhile, the PDP expressed total agreement with the letter by the National Guard commander, because what they intend, deep down, is to nullify the most advanced aspects of the Torrijos-Carter treaties agreed upon five years ago. Those aspects involve strictly military matters achieved by Panama and reestablish the Pentagon's power on our territory, through the continued existence of military bases and even an increase in their number.

For its part, the PDC said that General Paredes' letter to Ambassador Briggs offends the country's sensibilities because it disavows the role of the Foreign Ministry, ridiculing the president and the foreign minister. Furthermore, it underestimates the loyalty and professional competence of their officers. Last, it raises to the national and international levels a campaign of confrontation, discredit and threats against a diplomat, for reasons whose bases are not known, and which appear to have to do more with the internal insecurities and rivalries of the regime, than with the permament national interests. Arbitrary initiatives of this sort do not benefit Panama, as a country responsible for handling its international relations; furthermore, they do not benefit the National Guard as a professional institution.

Last, Liberal Party President Arnulfo Escalona, said that "The National Constitution establishes that foreign relations are the exclusive purview of the president of the republic and each time that cases such as today's occur, the majesty of the president is being stepped on." He added: "What those letters say about the visits to the garrisons is not true, because former U.S. Ambassador Ambler Moss was worn out from visiting all the garrisons in this country and nobody ever complained; therefore, I do not know exactly what circumstances lie behind this letter."

Letter Elicits Questions

PA222311 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 11A

["The People Speak" column by Ramon Fernandez Domenech]

[Text] Last Saturday the country was shaken by a "social peace shot" fired by National Guard Commander in Chief Ruben Dario Paredes -- supposed semiofficial presidential precandidate. The shot was fired in line with his "prolific" public statements and the "savage disputes" that several sectors of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, Frampo [Popular Broad Front], the People's Party and the Labor Party (Pala) currently maintain within their own ranks and among themselves, faced with the prospect of authentic and nonauthentic "Panamenism," the liberals in their own ranks, Molirena [National Liberal Republican Movement], the Popular Nationalist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Agrarian "Barle-Labor Party [presumably reference to Agrarian Labor Party leader Luis Barletta], the Socialist Workers [Workers Socialist Party], the federalists [People's Nationalist Federal Party], the Republican Party, the PICO [Independent Party of the Working Classs] and the Revolutionary Party of the Workers.

The shot fired by the big "social peace" cannon was wrapped in an "e-pistle" [play on Spanish word for pistol] that the general sent to U.S. Ambasador in Panama Everett Ellis Briggs. In the note, the ambassador was accused of attempts against Panamanian security and he was "respectfully but strongly" reprimanded for "overflowing" like a river while carrying out his diplomatic activities. Comments and rumors galore were heard everywhere. From these, we have extracted the questions that were being asked while trying to explain this incursion by the general into the handling of the government's foreign relations.

Did the National Guard chief forget who directs Panama's international affairs?

Did the commander in chief know that Ambassador Briggs is the highest ranking boss that Lieutenant General Wallace H. Nutting has in Panama?

Did the G-2 of the National Guard's General Staff know, and if so, did it tell the commander in chief that Lieutenant General Nutting was "pulled by the ears" for his recent letter praising the general?

Could the precandidate be trying to create a tense situation with nationalistic overtones between Panama and the United States?

Could something be happening inside the barracks, which the general is trying "to abort" with his letter to Ambassador Briggs?

Does the allusion to the "CIA" as a disguise for the American diplomat mean that a coup d'etat is being "hatched," which would depose the current command?

What relation is there between the grave level of administrative corruption prevalent since the beginning of the "process" -- which has been sponsored, supported and "exploited" to its advantage by the National Guard's highest hierarchy, and has seen the public light in the last 12 months with an abundance of details, including the arms traffic to the Central American guerrillas -- and the talks that the general "asserts" Ambassador Briggs has tried to hold?

Where was the now-general a few years ago when the previous American ambassador was "like a minister without portfolio" of the administration?

Why were the sorrowful events of 9 January 1964 mentioned in the already "famous" and "enigmatic" letter?

Did the general discuss the sending of this "e-pistle" with President de la Espriella, and did the president give his approval?

What does the general mean when he states in his letter to Briggs that this "deals with matters that affect our national security?"

Does this mean a coup, riot, trick or excess designed to get "nationalistic" sinecures aimed at consolidating his possible president candidacy?

Will the "opposition" and official political parties maintain a "precautionary" silence about the general's letter and Ambassador Briggs' "investigations," which the National Guard chief has described as "intervention" in Panama's domestic affairs?

Will Ambassador Briggs be declared "personna non grata" by De la Espriella's government at the general's request, or will De la Espriella be ordered to do it?

Envoy's Removal Called For

PA231609 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 13

[Secundino Torres Gudino column: "The Offended and the Offenders"]

[Text] According to Article 2 of the Constitution, public power comes from the people and is exercised by the legislative, executive and judicial branches, with the cooperation of the public forces. Those organs have specific functions and the public forces, under the guidance of the executive, are responsible for national security.

All the countries with which the republic maintains diplomatic relations use the regular channels for all kinds of contacts. It is therefore highly unusual for a diplomatic representative of a friendly country to proceed to establish direct contacts with national institutions, while bypassing their directors and officials. Even more incredible is the communique issued by the embassy and published in response to General Paredes' letter.

The embassy communique, dated 21 February, states that the letter is "said to have been written by the commander of the National Guard." That assertion is the first offense. The communique contains a number of statements that seek to cast doubt on the content of the letter, which is another offense. In addition, the embassy communique is itself an offense since it says at the beginning that the letter was not received by the ambassador, yet it meticulously answers all the points mentioned by the chief of the Panamanian Armed Forces.

If the ambassador's explanations seek to reduce the gravity of the deterioration in relations between our armed institution and the diplomatic representation of the United States, they have had the opposite effect. The communique demonstrates the arrogance of some U.S. diplomats. Similarly, it reaffirms that it is not possible to continue normal relations with the current ambassador if understanding is to prevail between the two countries. Therefore, it is necessary for the ambassador to be withdrawn in order to eliminate the tension. The ambassador's attitude has been offensive, not only because of his interference in internal security affairs, but also because of the attitude taken in defense of his behavior.

Commentator Warns Briggs

PA222114 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 83

[From "The Piranhas" program; commentary by Nestor de Icaza]

[Excerpt] Dear Mr Briggs: As a Panamanian I want to talk to you "business people in the world, man." [in English] [sound of siren] I'm going to ask you not to stick your nose in, Mr Briggs. I know that they are recording everything, the FBI and the CIA are recording everything, but they cannot label me a communist; they cannot call me a communist, because I have sure let the communists have it. Don't stick your nose in my country's business, Mr Briggs. Leave it alone, leave it alone. We want to live in peace, and don't forget that. That is what I ask of you, because the people are going to be "easy and ready." [in English] Otherwise, the people are going to throw stones at the embassy building of "the people in the world, men, now. Why, okay, Mr Briggs, I see you again." [in English]

Paredes' 'Courteous' Attitude Noted

PA230732 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 21 Feb 83 p 4

["Mario Augusto Rodriguez" column: "Diplomatic Blunder?"]

[Text] 1. Information

I was surprised at first and later concerned after I heard our admirable colleague Luz Maria Noli read on Televisora Nacional's 0700 newscast on Saturday 19 February the courteous but stern letter that Brigadier Gen Ruben Dario Paredes had addressed to Mr Everett Briggs, U.S. ambassador to Panama. My first impression of Ambassador Brigg was favorable, and I said so in this column. When he was interviewed in Tocumen, he spoke in correct Spanish and gave me the impression of dignity and respect. That is why I am surprised that he has made inexplicable mistakes such as ignoring elemental rules of diplomatic protocol; and what is even worse, of disregarding the consideration and respect owed to organizations directly charged with guarding order and protecting the security and stability of the national institutions, such as the National Guard. This repeated attitude of Ambassador Briggs could only be explained -- although never justified -- if he lacked experience in fulfilling the mission in our country entrusted to him by the U.S. Government.

2. At Least, Two...

General Paredes in his letter refers the U.S, diplomat to two specific incidents. The first occurred in Colon on Wednesday, 26 January. His inexplicable interest in breaking the regular order established was not achieved because the officers in charge of that section of the National Guard were not taken unaware. That should have been a lesson that any person of reasonable intelligence would have understood and assimilated. But apparently Ambassador Briggs knowledge of Spanish did not reach the stage of understanding forms of conduct or the motives behind reactions. There is no other explanation for the fact that 2 weeks later he committeed the same mistake, this time in the 5th Military Zone in Chiriqui, which is under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Purcell. There he even went a bit further in his impudence by suggesting the possibility of making a toast, for which he offered, almost offensively, to supply the liquor. He topped the error off with what might be considered insolence.

3. Call to Attention

It is well to note that in the face of this repeated attitude, which might be termed lightly as provocative impudence, General Paredes has been exceptionally courteous and discreet.

True, there was reason for the National Guard General Staff to level a formal protest, through the Foreign Ministry, to the government in Washington. However, apparently General Paredes has tried to avert such an uncomfortable situation for Ambassador Briggs and his government. Therefore, he reduced the scope and dimension of his show of disagreement, keeping it within the bounds of a polite letter addressed to the ambassador. I interpret that attitude of General Paredes -- undoubtedly adopted with the consensus of the General Staff -- as an expression of good will and an opportunity for the ambassador to learn what protocol rules limit his diplomatic conduct, because neither his advisers nor his experience have served him well. It is as if the National Guard were giving the U.S. diplomat an opportunity to remain in his role of representative of his country to the government of Panama.

4. Interpretation

But at the same time, with calm sternness, General Paredes has pointed out to Ambassador Briggs the need to prevent his conduct from giving rise to not only anger but conflicts. "I would not like to believe that your diplomatic post is a disguise for a high-ranking intelligence officer working for U.S. espionage organizations." That is unfortunately the impression that the interventionist attitude of Ambassador Briggs gives to the common observer. And that is how U.S. authorities usually interpret the slightest contact by foreign diplomatic services not only with their military organizations but also with any other organization connected with the defense and security of the United States.

Paredes 'Political Maneuvers'

PA232000 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Feb 83 p 11-A

[Communique issued by the National Liberal Republican Movement, Molirena; no date given]

[Excerpts] Panamanians were jolted on Saturday night when Brigadier General Ruben Dario Paredes announced a letter addressed that same day to Everett Briggs, U.S. ambassador to Panama, accusing him of several attempts to interfere in the functioning of the Armed Forces and threatening to ask for his withdrawal from the country if he did not correct his conduct. The stupor felt by the responsible and conscientious sector of the country, which fortunately is the immense majority of Panamanians, was caused by the fact that General Paredes had once more shoved the Constitution aside and cast the president into a corner by assuming one of the president's functions -- the direction of international relations.

We have been, are, and will be defenders of our sovereignty and dignity as a free country and will struggle invariably for these two principles which are inalterable for us. But today we have reason to believe that deep down this is a political maneuver to try to gain popular support, thus far denied, to the presidential candidacy. If we are right in our conception of the serious problem in which we are mired, we hope that the intelligence and equanimity of General Paredes will prevail over any other momentary personal interest, so as to not increase the tragedy of the Panamanians, who deserve better luck.

Briggs' Behavior 'Counterproductive'

PA222114 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 8-A

[Editorial: "Unusual and Counterproductive 'Diplomacy'"]

[Text] The National Guard Information and Public Relations Office has given a clear and detailed explanation of the acts that forced our Armed Forces commander to send the U.S. ambassador, Mr Briggs, a stern letter.

The explanation leaves no room for doubt as to the total justification that exists for us to consider the ambassador's behavior as unusual and divorced from orthodox diplomacy, since he tried to meddle in matters that concern only the Panamanian authorities, and very specifically the National Guard. The reproductions of the documents that validate the letter, which appear in today's edition of this newspaper, place a seal of legitimacy and irrefutable truth on the National Guard complaint, in total contrast to the unsigned documents written on paper with no letterhead, and in popular jargon, that the U.S. ambassador, not the embassy, has been waving.

According to the evidence that the National Guard presents, the presence of Mrs Helen Marshall Carter in the office of the chief of the 2d Military Zone on 12 January, as well as the nature of the questions she asked Major Quezada, which are still unanswered, and the events that took place on 26 and 31 January, and 9, 17 and 18 February leave no room for doubt that Ambassador Briggs, as well as his subordinate envoys, were carrying out an operation generally recognized as a search for classified information to be used as intelligence material.

If we take into account, as we should, that a search for intelligence has a name and characteristics that are unrelated to the activities that an ambassador in a friendly country can and should pursue, Ambassador Briggs' attitude is most surprising, and this justifies the form as well as the content of General Paredes' letter as concerns the present and the immediate future. The unfortunate behavior of that diplomatic official contributes nothing to the maintenance, let alone an expansion, of the good relations that exist between Panama and the United States, which are undermined and endangered by improper actions that are negative and counterproductive.

PDC COMMUNIQUE SCORES GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY

PA221605 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 11A

[Unsigned communique issued by the Christian Democratic Party -- no place or date given]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] denounces the irresponsible acts of the regime, in this, the final stage of its existence. The acts in the international sphere demand immediate correction, because they could irreparably compromise the nation's basic interests.

The commission of crimes in our territory by foreign guerrillas cannot remain unpunished and unexplained. A person was kidnapped in Costa Rica, brought to Panama and held hostage for almost a year, in nine different hideouts, under guard by some 20 individuals. Moreover, there are indications that another kidnap victim was murdered and the body thrown into the sea. With regard to those incidents, which greatly trouble the Costa Rican authorities and public, Panamanian security organizations remain silent and the prosecutor's office provides ridiculous explanations. We demand a serious explanation from those organizations and we demand from the government a clear policy of noncomplicity with guerrilla groups that are promoting violence in our region.

General Paredes' letter to the U.S. ambassador, which comes on the heels of the public disclosure of these incidents, perplexes the thinking people in the country, first because it bypasses the Foreign Ministry and makes the president and the foreign minister look ridiculous; second, because it underestimates the loyalty and professional competence of his officers; and finally, because it exposes at the national and international level a campaign of confrontation, disparagement and threats toward a diplomat, for basic reasons that are unknown and that appear to have more to do with the insecurities and internal rivalries within the regime than with the nation's permanent interests. Arbitrary initiatives of this type benefit neither Panama, as a country that is responsible for managing its foreign relations, nor the National Guard, as a professional institution.

At the same time, the statements by Vice President Illueca, urging the Latin American armies to join together in a warlike adventure in the Malvinas Islands, are a danger to our peoples, who are not prepared to provide more dead, who do not wish to see the resources needed to overcome poverty and social injustice squandered, and who know that aggressive armies are an obstacle to democratization. The vice president's possible desire to be elected president of the UN General Assembly should not lead him to make repeated hasty demagogic remarks to Panama's detriment.

Finally, the recent visit to Panama by personalities from Japan to talk about the sea-level canal makes it necessary to caution the government that no decision should be made on that subject before the process of democratization is fully complete. Meanwhile, in view of the basic importance of the subject, the government should officially inform the political parties of its policy on this matter and what arrangements, if any, have been made with Japan and the United States. To this end, we call for a meeting between the foreign minister and the deputy administrator [of the Panama Canal Commission] and the representatives of the parties.

In view of the behavior of the present regime, which we denounce, the PDC reiterates its position that Panama's foreign policy, based on democratic nationalism, should be characterized by the constant exercise of a sense of responsibility, a sense of national sovereignty and of Latin American solidarity. In closing, we firmly state that the democratization process should be completed rapidly and with great seriousness, through the realization of substantial constitutional changes and through honest elections resulting in new and legitimate authorities. No coup d'etat among those who are currently governing can be any excuse for thwarting the desires of democracy without seriously endangering Panama's peace and well-being.

COMMENTATOR ON OPPOSITION MEETING WITH KIRKPATRICK

PA232156 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 83

["On the Street With Lucho" with host, Lucho Pimentel, commenting on a meeting between Panamanian opposition leaders and Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, at the U.S. Embassy in Panama City on 4 February]

[Excerpts] That meeting will make history in the annals of Panamanian politics. While we have always lived under the Pentagon umbrella and U.S. citizens have always exerted their influence to install and remove presidents in order to have great control over Panama's political destiny, never has a meeting been held so openly, so brazenly. This criticism is not directed just at the opposition sectors, but also at government sectors, and we will say more on the subject.

Well, I don't know how the minutely reported contents of the meeting, with such dramatic details that included quotes of what the participants said, got to the G-2. The U.S. ambassador could have informed the G-2, or perhaps, as a colleague has said, they were sent by Olimpo Saez [president of the Popular Nationalist Party]. Or perhaps G-2 has already penetrated the security of the United States and has installed some of those wireless microphones that transmit for up to 3 km to a receiver that one can place in a car and listen to everything.

I do not believe that Panama's G-2 has yet obtained that laser beam radio detector that one installs in a wall. The vibrations produced in the wall by conversation travel by laser beam and one can hear it clearly. It was used against the gringos in Moscow and they had to coat their walls with metal to keep the Soviets from spying on them. I have been involved in the world of security for the past 15 years and I don't believe that device is in the hands of our good friends at G-2 of the National Guard.

However, the fact is that the G-2 obtained the information about this top secret [last two words spoken in English] confidential meeting of the political leaders that was attended by Ambassador Briggs as well as Kirkpatrick, and by Arnulfo Escalona, Hildebrando Nicosia, Ricardo Arias Calderon, Guillermo Ford, Olimpo Saez, Mario Calindo, Bobby Eisenmann, and others.

We Panamanians have been committing the great error of tying our hopes and our interests to those of the colonialist empires that, through economic or ideological power, seek to subjugate the rest of humanity.

We Panamanians are divided into two groups: Those who support the ambassador, and those who do not. In our opinion, neither of the two groups is right. We have no reason to continue asking the North Americans to remain the arbiters of our disputes, or to continue to be the axis, the beacon, the guiding light by which they lead us like sheep to fight among ourselves about things that do not directly concern us, that is, their geopolitical disputes and strategic differences.

We must defend our interests, our country, our culture. Nutting [Lieutenant General Wallace Nutting, commanding officer, U.S. Southern Command] has no right to say that Paredes is a beacon light any more than it is up to opposition parties to go begging to Jeane Kirkpatrick to find a solution to the problem of our military dictatorship, of the obscurity and the democratic blackout that has existed in this country for the past 14 years. There is no excuse for either of them. Neither is right. We will comment on this is a very serene, in-depth and serious way, because it is painful and shameful to see Panamanians in that position of genuflection, of reverence, as they go looking to the North Americans and knocking on the embassy door, as they go to the Pentagon and to the caves that have been drilled into our Ancon Hill, to the headquarters of the high command, to ask for support and money to resolve our problems.

It causes me great humiliation. I am ashamed as a Panamanian. Just as I do not feel that the U.S. ambassador has any right to be visiting the garrisons and offering liquor and possibly even money and to be asking questions about whether so and so is related to so and so and what do you plan to do about politics, about a coup d'etat. That is not the North Americans' problem, gentlemen. It is our problem.

If we Panamanians are incapable of throwing off that dictatorship, if we are afraid to die, if we do not have the necessary spirit to return to our democratic and institutionalist system, let us go to the devil.

We can fight with Paredes, Noriega, Ricardo Arias or anyone else, but among ourselves, gentlemen, here among ourselves, without U.S. intervention.

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK LOAN -- Washington -- The Panamanian Government and the World Bank signed a $22-million loan agreement today to finance a project to build water and sewerage systems in Panama. Aquilino Boyd, Panamanian ambassador to Washington, signed the agreement on behalf of the Panamanian Government, while Nicolas Ardito Barletta signed on behalf of the World Bank. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Feb 83 PA]

EL SALVADOR

EDITORIAL TERMS SHULTZ' WORDS ENCOURAGING

PA220516 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Feb 83 p 7

[Editorial: "Negotiations Irritate Shultz"]

[Text] The recent statement by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz -- who categorically rejected the idea of negotiations between the Salvadoran Government and leaders of the terrorist guerrillas, who have ruthlessly attacked our people for 3 years, as a means to find a solution to the conflict -- could be considered a refreshing bucket of cool water, or a healthy breath of fresh air for the Salvadorans.

Shultz clearly defended the Reagan administration's position regarding the Salvadoran problem in testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

Shultz even became irritated when he rejected the idea of negotiating, while replying to one of the well-known Democratic representatives who favors the terrorist guerrillas, and who also defends their alleged right to be admitted to the table of discussions with the government and the people they massacre.

Our people already voiced their opinion in clear Spanish on 28 March 1982, rejecting any agreement or complicity with lackeys of totalitarian masters.

Shultz' words are highly encouraging, and resound as a harmonious note amid the deafening fanfare of the international left -- which has even infiltrated the capitol -- demanding a political solution or negotiations, since their hopes for a military victory grow more remote each day in view of the heroism and determination of the Salvadoran people, who are bravely resisting, even if the world around them collapses.

ARMY CLAIMS FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN STRUGGLE

PA232109 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Feb 83

[Text] We have received the following communique from the Armed Forces Press Committee: Local newspapers, international news agencies and other news media have reported that armed forces members have offered information and disclosed documents on the intervention of foreigners who participate in the struggle that has been imposed on the Salvadoran people and armed forces.

These documents have been carefully analyzed, especially those from Morazan Department and those that give exact information about the participation of international terrorism in our country, foreigners who contribute to the destruction of our economy and the type of aid they give to the FMLN-FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front] terrorists.

Experts in psychological warfare are trying to disorient the Salvadoran people and armed forces by means of specialized propaganda and communist agitation.

The psychological war carried out through clandestine radios is led by foreigners who develop methods of scientific misinformation at the international and national levels.

One of these mercenaries is (Carlos Gayo), a 33-year-old Venezuelan program director with the alias "Santiago." He is a technician in the production and creation of soap operas that are used in psychological warfare and for military misinformatin.

The Venezuelan (Carlos Gayo) also has a team of experts, including newswriters, movie and television camera crews, professional writers who participate in the preparation of the FMLN's international magazine that is edited in Mexico City, photography technicians and video and sound technicians.

The FMLN also has foreign doctors and other experts in sabotage and guerrilla warfare.

All these mercenaries work at commander level in the FMLN and have connections with Venezuelan bands that have Maoist tendencies and with the Baden terrorist group in Germany.

The documents presented by the armed forces prove there are subversive combatants who are agents of Soviet international communism and are organized in columns. The analyses conclude that the Sandinist front provides mercenaries because of the debt they acquired in 1978, when the Salvadoran terrorist organizations gave the FSLN an economic donation of $5 million to finance the final offensive against General Anastasio Somoza's regime.

The Mexicans who intervene against our country belong to the pro-Castro cells that operate in the interior of Mexico; these are sent from their country through Cuban liaisons that they have in the "Department of America" in Havana.

A German woman who belongs to the Baden terrorist organization in Germany is responsible for ideological training and is a correspondent of publications in West Germany.

The documents revealed by the armed forces as captured during the recent operations in Morazan Department prove without a doubt the intervention of international agents in an attack against our national sovereignty and reveal that foreign organizations and governments are interfering in the Salvadoran conflict. It also proves that the conflict does not stem only from domestic sociopolitical conditions in El Salvador.

PAPER CITES SHELLING ATTACK ON SAN FRANCISCO GOTERA

PA232134 San Salvador DIARIO EL MUNDO in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] San Miguel, 22 Feb -- An unexpected and fierce attack took place last night on San Francisco Gotera, capital of Morazan Department, between 2000 and 2030 local time. This caused a general alarm.

Extremist batteries on the Mendoza, Leonardo and El Picacho hills, which surround the city, did the shelling. The shots from those hills toward the plateau did not reach the houses, according to a report from a military source. The rebels used bazookas, mortars and long-range rifles.

Around 2015, when the attack was the heaviest and loudest, the people of San Francisco Gotera were astonished to see a flare light up the whole city for almost 2 minutes. The flare was reportedly fired from one of the hills and might have been used during an operation to land men and weapons. The flare moved slowly from a hill towards the city and burned out upon nearing the houses. The source added that the commando instruction center aimed several cannons at the hills and started the counterattack with five quick shots, which were heard as far away as Jocoro. It seems that these shots were enough to end the attack, which lasted exactly 30 minutes.

Some months ago San Francisco Gotera was subject to another attack. On that occasion the impact was felt in the city, including the areas near to the instruction center garrison. The neighbors were commenting today about the spectacular light they had seen; there were comments that perhaps the flare had not been launched by the extremists but by the army, in order to locate the enemy.

CIENFUEGOS SPEECH INAUGURATES RADIO GUAZAPA

PA222033 (Clandestine) Radio Guazapa in Spanish to El Salvador 0140 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Speech by Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, member of the FMLN general command to officially inaugurate Radio Guazapa; on 21 February "in El Salvador" -- recorded]

[Text] Salvadoran people: The FMLN's Radio Guazapa emerges while the military offensive is maintained after 5 months of constant operations along all the war fronts. Radio Guazapa emerges when we have raised the levels of cooperation and coordination among the FMLN leaders. This enables us to step up our operational and offensive capacity.

Today the FMLN is developing an offensive with greater experience in the art of maneuvering in various parts of Morazan, Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, San Vicente, Usulutan, La Union and San Miguel. This makes it possible to expand the scene operations by following a strategy of controlling the roads, carring out sabotage, ambushing the enemy in motion, attacking the cities, fighting in the plains and dismantling the elite battalions as well as the regional and local forces. In short, the FMLN is spreading the war all over the country, hoarding weapons, uniforms and medicines, and taking hundreds of prisoners who are turned over to the International Red Cross and to the armed forces commissions (?in) the municipal mayors' offices, as has been the case in the city of Suchitoto.

The high command is making big efforts to recover the offensive in order to justify the U.S. military aid. However, in the last 5 months, the high command has had to admit being in the defensive. This proves that it is wasting large resources in the form of ammunition, bombs and phosphorous, and exhausting its forces in large operations in Morazan, Cuscatlan or Perquin. In short, the advisers themselves recognize that they can't win the war, that they are losing it, that the high command is not capable and that the Salvadoran Armed Forces have a low morale and do not follow the instructions given to them by the U.S. advisers. In short, the army and its high command are in a difficult situation, maintaining a strategic defense to prevent a sudden collapse of the armed forces.

Our military offensive has demonstrated to the army, the people and the political sectors that we are a decisive force in this country, that the FMLN is a decisive political and military power, fundamental to the homeland's life. It has been demonstrated that we are a peaceful factor and that our advances guarantee the construction of a long and safe road toward democracy, progress and development in our country.

This radio station proves that we are advancing to inform our people and the world about our struggle, in which we have to confront the U.S. empire's interventionism and its policy of aggression and confrontation against the national liberation movements. Radio Guazapa is a qualitative leap by the FMLN because it expands its influence and watches over the FMLN's performance and views at both the national and international levels, thus breaking the criminal cordon designed to prevent information about the true developments in El Salvador, and providing those who do not have a voice with a means of telling the truth about our people. This has already been stated by the martyr of our revolution, Monsignor Romero.

The year 1983 is decisive, because we must seek a political solution under which the FMLN will help create and [word indistinct] a new society, a new democratic government with broad popular participation by all the forces and sectors willing to promote reform and progress.

We urge the workers, the peasants, the employees, the students, the housewives, the professionals, the political and union forces and the small and medium-sized businessmen to join the popular struggle that will provide a political solution to the current confrontation and war that is tearing apart and bleeding our homeland. The armed forces, soldiers, noncommissioned officers and honest officers, should join us. Aim your rifles at the fascists. Together -- FMLN, soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers -- we would fight and defeat the fascists, the oligarchy and the fascist and traitorous officers. Otherwise, we will have to fight until we can demand either the surrender or the annihilation of the forces that oppose peace, dialogue and negotiation.

We urge the American people to step up their material solidarity with our struggle. We also urge them to fight to the very last American to defeat the interventionist policy of the Reaganist group, aggressor and sworn enemy of the national liberation movements.

We urge the peoples of the world to fight U.S. imperialist intervention, which prevents a political solution. We call for material aid, since our struggle is supported by our people's sacrifice and blood and the aid given by the democratic peoples and governments of the world (?to) our solidarity committees in each country.

United to fight until the final victory, revolution or death, we will win! Long live the FMLN, vanguard of our people.

Guazapa Hill Fighting

PA230338 (Clandestine) Radio Guazapa in Spanish to El Salvador 0130 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] At 1830 on Tuesday, 22 February, we received an important progress report on the intense fighting being waged on Guazapa Hill. Forward companeros of our revolutionary army; this is the year of the great victories and decisive battles. This is a bulletin from the command at the Guazapa front. Heroic Guazapa is on a war footing. We are advancing in our victory strategy. Our front is waging an unprecedented battle. Boldness, heroism and the art of military strategy achieved by our guerrilla forces [words indistinct] against the Salvadoran Armed Forces on the Guazapa front.

At this time fighting is intensifying in El Salitre, Zapote, (Mangal), [name indistinct] and (La Flecha). The counterofensive of the government army has increased in strength. Their forces include the (Camus) Battalion, the Sonsonate Battalion, the Pipil Battalion, the Atlacatl parachute Battalion, two companies of the Belloso Battalion, the Arce Battalion, one battalion of the 1st [name indistinct] Brigade and reinforcements of the Suchitoto represesive corps, making a total of nine reinforced battalions.

At this moment there is heavy fighting on the heights of (El Caballito). The armed forces are trying with this operation to fulfill their genocidal objectives, especially by intensifying the bombardments in El Valle, (El Chaparral), Platanares, San Antonio and [name indistinct]. They have even conducted massive arrests of the people, burning their huts, destroying their crops and murdering them, all with the goal of fulfilling their scorched-earth policy, which means a war of extermination against the defenseless population as decreed by the fascist high command, the oligarchy and President Reagan's government.

We appeal to the U.S. people to declare their solidarity with our struggle. We also appeal to international parliamentary organizations to bear witness to these atrocities staged by U.S. imperialism. In this particular case, our people on the Guazapa front are defeating the imperialist strategy. United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death, we shall win.

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT RIOS MONTT'S ADDRESS TO NATION

PA230645 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Weekly address to the nation by Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt, from the Presidential Palace in Guatemala City -- live]

[Excerpts] Now I would like to change the subject. I would like to speak to you on other matters of interest for us, and it would be worthwhile for us to realize that when someone places his personal interests above the interests of others -- this means that someone pays attention only to his own problems and does not worry about others -- then for this person state intervention becomes uncomfortable. We believe that the less the state intervenes in the development of the national economy, the better will be the results in the fair and orderly work of the production entities.

However, in a time of crisis, when the welfare of the majority has to be taken into consideration, state intervention is not only a good idea but for the ruler it becomes an obligation.

During the many meetings the government held to determine where the resources managed by the Bank of Guatemala would be put to use, we never had the intention of affecting any one sector. Our intention was to benefit those who, because of their inefficiency, today need government protection, the support of the government. They are human beings. They are people just like you. But because of their inability, their deficient situation, their culture -- because of these factors that are probably outside their control -- they need us today to attend to their needs.

You, by contrast, are a great guy, a great man because you had an education, because you were taught to work intelligently. Why? Because you have brains. You know how to handle yourself. You have more in every sense. It is a law of nature that we just can't understand. Today you have to sacrifice and stop doing big business and share what you have earned to help those whom today you despise and underestimate. This government's idea is not to take from you to give to others. Our idea is that when there is a crisis, like at this moment, we establish a balance to protect the lives and cover the needs of the most needy, of those inefficient ones as you call them, of the inefficient, [words indistinct] and ignorant.

Unfortunately, to try and ignore the inefficiency of our citizens means ignoring almost 70 percent of our fatherland, because in 1983 we have many millions of inefficient persons. On the other hand, we are not sold on any economic idea, but rather are seeking the elements that will be favorable and suitable to the peculiarities of our country. We are open to suggestions on freeing the purchase of foreign exchange in our country. We know that you, as a good Guatemalan, have very good intentions; but we are facing a reality, a sad reality. There are very few good Guatemalans. Yes, unfortunately there are many citizens who would try to remove from the country all the money they could. This does not mean that we intend to keep your money or for your money to stay in the Bank of Guatemala. No. This is not the money that will be used to pay for what the state has bought. But if the removal of money were to occur, if the people were to take money out in large amounts, Guatemala would be ruined. [Word indistinct] and it would become a state of another power, not only economically but socially. Aside from having to depend on someone else, many of us would die of hunger and disease, and we would not have enough foreign exchange to purchase food, medicines or the fuel we need.

As you can see, we don't want to hurt you; we want to protect all those people whom I insist have contributed with their ignorance so that you, the intelligent and great man, can make money.

I know, I have said it many times, and I repeat it today; you play an important role in our country; you play a great role here in Guatemala; you are the one that can help direct this country into a situation where once again you will be making money and all of us can make money. There will be no greater blessing than the day that this country, rich in resources, is once again prosperous and full of abundance for all. But right now we are in crisis. At this moment we have to sacrifice. You have to sacrifice. Both of us have to sacrifice. So this year you will not make 20 percent profit on your sales; well, be satisfied with 10 percent. Be intelligent, be intelligent. Take the risk and make a lower profit, and together help overcome our national misery. All remain.... [doesn't complete sentence]

See here, put yourself in my place. One group of producers, big businessmen, comes to see you and tells you that there is very little foreign exchange -- very little, that is true -- and we need it for production. But 30 minutes before this you have met with a health official who told you that malaria is hitting the coast, and he needs foreign exchange because Japan won't send us insecticide unless we have the dollars to pay for it.

That is sad. [Words indistinct] see here, did you know tht soon we will have have to have the foreign exchange available to pay for the shipments of fuel used to transport food, medicines and other necessary things for our country? I would like to know what you would do. What I am doing at this moment of crisis -- not as a concrete measure -- is to give more importance to the lives of these so-called inefficient persons. Maybe this is to give them one more chance to become efficient. We must allow them to do this; we must let them survive even at a cost to ourselves. This is important, but we have to do it together, you and I; you who know and I who control and direct. Because, did you know that we don't have foreign exchange? We are not kidding ourselves; you know that there is no foreign exchange.

Did you know that Guatemala owes, in dollars and other foreign currencies, more than 400 million quetzales right at this moment [words indistinct]. Do you know why? Simply because there is no foreign exchange. Did you know that it is believed that there is approximately $1 billion deposited in foreign banks that belongs to distinguished and some not so distinguished Guatemalan citizens? Did you know that there are many companies currently buying raw materials by using these funds abroad? Do you know that many companies are buying at one price and declaring another so as to leave foreign exchange abroad? Do you realize that if only half of that $1 billion now abroad was brought back into the country, the economy of the country would be noticeably reactivated? Did you know that there is a company that decided to fire its personnel so as not to sacrifice any profit? Do you know that this country is facing a crisis? A better question would be: Do you or do you not know if this is your country? Do you know that we all have to sacrifice, even you? Did you know that Guatemala owes payments that are not even really economic payments but rather moral and ethical payments?

Let us consider this. I do not know how we could pay off a number of debts. It would be worthwhile for you to consider the fact that the only way to move forward is to try not really to sacrifice ourselves but to live according to the situation, which is a critical one.

When we sit down dispassionately at a working table and try to solve the problems of a nation, of Guatemala, if we fail to consider among thse problems the lives of human beings who are inefficient -- as you know they are -- then what kind of work are we doing? I believe that God has given every man talents and gifts -- that is, he has given intelligence, resources, opportunities and abundance -- and that every man should enjoy the fruits of his gifts.

However, I also firmly believe that God demands more from those who have received more from him. You do not wish to understand this. I believe that the person who has the most -- intelligence and wealth -- has more responsibility toward the nation. Those talents bestowed by God, and in some cases faithfully developed by men, are for the benefit of those who have not received as much.

We are facing a crisis. It is necessary that we make sacrifices. It is necessary that we extend our services to those who most need it. Later, when we have overcome the present difficult situation, then we will enjoy the fruit of what we have.

ARMY REPORTS ON CLASHES WITH GUERRILLAS

PA230300 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] It has been officially announced that the army has discovered a subversive camp in (El Ciminal), San Marcos. Meanwhile, as a result of a clash between members of a military patrol, members of a civil defense patrol and a subversive group, five extremists were killed in Playa Grande, Uspantan, El Quiche. Finally, two soldiers were wounded when another military patrol clashed with a subversive group in El Palmar, Quezaltenango.

REBELS PUBLISH COMMUNIQUE IN MEXICAN NEWSPAPER

PA181351 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Feb 83 p 29A

[By Rogelio Hernandez]

[Text] Efrain Rios Montt's administration has entered a cycle of military uncertainty and political instability because of the failure of its "Victory 82" anti-insurgency plan. In 1982 the government lost 1,489 men and 17 aircraft, including helicopters and light planes, and failed to wipe out the guerrillas by December, as it had planned. Now it is rearming itself with a military budget that is 62 percent higher than last year's.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (UNRG), composed of four insurgent groups, has forwarded its annual report to several countries "to counter the peaceful image being disseminated by the current Guatemalan Government." The Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) leaders who sent a copy of the report to EXCELSIOR from Guatemala "respectfully request this great Mexican newspaper to balance the slanted dispatches sent by the international news agencies."

The rebel communique claims that the government has employed all sorts of Israeli, U.S., and Argentine techniques. International organizations have evidence that these techniques include genocide, the scorched earth policy and various kinds of psychological warfare." [quotemark as published]

Propaganda campaigns, sometimes costing large amounts of quetzals, have failed to prove guerrilla defeats or government victories, because barring the massacres of unarmed civilians and peasants, these victories never happened.

The UNRG communique reports on operations on its three fronts, including "342 harassment operations, 65 political-military occupations, 153 sabotage operations, 187 revolutionary propaganda acts, 26 clashes, 27 annihilation operations and 44 ambushes."

"Losses suffered by the army, the National Police, the rural guard and the military police totalled 1,489 men, along with a great number of installations and automobiles and considerable military equipment. We also damaged or destroyed 17 light planes and helicopters on the three operational fronts between March and September 1982."

A War Budget

The EGP reports that according to speeches by Government officials and press dispatches from the international news agencies, the "main concern" in Guatemala's 1983 budget "is the increase in military expenditures, which have been raised by 62 percent over those of last year."

The report goes on to explain: "The Defense Ministry spent 72.4 million quetzals (one quetzal is equivalent to the U.S. dollar) in 1982. In 1983 this amount has been raised to 117.3 million, and this doesn't include the so-called secret budget, which is handled strictly by the Army General Staff. Meanwhile, the Education Ministry will receive only 79.4 million this year."

The Guatemalan rebels claim that besides the increase in the budget allotments, the government collects millions in war taxes from large companies, while the United States has authorized a grant of $6 million for helicopter spare parts.

Their report adds that, "the defeat of the government's counterinsurgency plan and the regime's inability to solve basic economic and social problems put the Efrain Rios Montt government in a situation of political instability that might lead to another split in the Army high command, or to the latter's insistence on generalized repression."

HAVANA CITES INDIAN LEADER'S RIGHTS CHARGES

PA230835 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] In Quito, Guatemalan Indian leader (Domingo Hernandez) has charged that since Gen Efrain Rios Montt seized power, 12,000 people have been killed and 300 villages have been destroyed by the army. In a news conference held at the headquarters of the Latin American Human Rights Association, (Hernandez) indicated that the victims of the terror in Guatemala include 49 journalists and 19 priests.

He noted that in order to flee from the massacres by the army in the rural areas 170,000 peasants have taken refugee in Mexico and 1 million have sought protection in the mountains. The Guatemalan Indian leader said that the so-called strategic villages created by the Rios Montt regime are really concentration camps.

(Domingo Hernandez) asked all the governments of the world to intercede so that the big massacre of the Guatemalan people will stop.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ON NICARAGUA'S SILENCE ON INVITATION

PA230701 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan foreign minister remains silent about the Honduran Foreign Secretariat's invitation to inspect the common border along with Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica so that D'Escoto can verify Honduras' neutrality regarding Nicaragua's domestic problems.

Over the weekend, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat sent the invitation to Father Miguel d'Escoto, but it has yet to receive any reply. This shows Nicaragua's intransigence and rejection of dialogue, Paz Barnica said. I am waiting for a reply, since my invitation shows this government's good faith, an attitude that should prevail in international relations. This is the standard policy of the Honduran Government. We also want to show once again our peaceful position, the foreign secretary said. We want to show Foreign Minister d'Escoto that Nicaragua's assertions about the existence of Somozist guard camps in our territory are false. Those assertions have been internationally reported, thus harming our country's image, Paz Barnica added.

ARMED FORCES CHIEF ALVAREZ HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PA231805 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 83

[News conference held by Gen Gustavo Alverez Martinez, Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief, following dedication of a military school in San Pedro Sula on 22 February 1983 -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] [Words indistinct] (Marqueta) of the newspaper LA TRIBUNA. General Alvarez Martinez, is there every guarantee that President Roberto Suazo Cordova will be able to complete his 4 years in office?

[Answer] Well, I see no reason why you should ask that question. That is to say, the people elected him to serve 4 years and I see no reason why it should not be 4 years.

[Question] A coup d'etat is being rumored.

[Answer] Don't be ridiculous. Let the country be calm, [words indistinct] democracy. Don't ask tricky questions that sow distrust among the people, among foreign investors, investors in this country. That damages this country's image. Each one is fulfilling his duty within the government's decisions, abiding by the decisions of the executive branch and trying to preserve order in the country. These questions are irrelevant and more so when posed by a Honduran.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] (?This is the same as) the people's opinion. Let's speak clearly. It is the same as the opinion of the people and I don't think there are any coup rumors and everyone is calm here. It is known, it is sensed in advance, one can feel the stirring inside the armed forces or in any institution planning to stage it.

[Question] My name is (Anariba) from Cadena Audio Video. [words indistinct]

[Answer] [Words indistinct] look, don't make me waste time. Act like Hondurans and not like those newsmen who try to confuse public opinion with tricky questions. Ask questions like professionals, adhering to ethics and in a way that will benefit Hondurans, and not questions like this one, which make me waste time.

[Question] I am a reporter for Cadena Audio Video (?and) Radio America and I would like to ask you a question (?in your capacity) as chief of the armed forces. What is your opinion, General Alvarez Martinez, of the remark made by the representative of French President Francois Mitterrand that there are verified camps of former Somozist guardesman in Honduras?

[Answer] That gentleman is misleading. That gentleman came to my office and when he told me: Look, you talk of respect and you have a camp of (?counterrevolutionaries) on the border with Nicaragua. I said: Sir, do you have the evidence? No, I have been told so, he said. So I told him: How do you dare, being a representative of the French Government, accuse my country? I will not allow you to do so. (?Let's call) a helicopter so you can go and see. I don't have time, he said. Then I said: Don't say things you are not certain of, because you represent the French Government. You are accusing my country of something that is not true. Let's get a helicopter, if you want. The man refused to go.

[Question] Do you think this is part of the international campaign to distort Honduras' peaceful image?

[Answer] I am going to tell you something: There is a campaign against Honduras. First and foremost, it is aimed at establishing that there isn't a really democratic government in Honduras and that there is a military dictatorship, when this is not true. The armed forces abide by the decisions of the executive branch. We are subordinated to it under the Constitution. Therefore, the intention is to establish that this government is only a front, and this is not true. The purpose is to keep countries that wish to help Honduras from helping it, believing that we have a military dictatorship.

This is a campaign being waged by communists. What they want is to isolate Honduras, destroy its economy and bring about chaos because of the people's needs.

The second aspect is internal in nature. They want the president to have doubts about the armed forces so problems will arise between the government and the armed forces. However, they will not succeed, because there is unity, permanent communication and good faith on both sides. I guarantee to you that we will make the country forge ahead. Now then, we definitely have to have the support of the people, and those who wish to confuse the public must be stopped.

[Question] [Name indistinct] of LA PRENSA. General Alvarez, what is the meaning of the pope's visit to Honduras, in your opinion?

[Answer] Well, I think it is something very special. I believe it will be a major landmark in Honduras' history. I think that the pope's visit will be very timely and very significant now that we are facing a crisis in our spiritual values due to the penetration of communist materialism. I think that even though this is a pastoral visit, it has a political aim. This is my opinion. I do not mean this involves bad faith but a desire to unite peoples under the Christian faith against an obvious threat of an ideological and political type. I feel that the pope's visit is very important.

[Question] [Words indistinct] What is the meaning to the armed forces and to the country of the presence of Nicaraguan spies in our territory?

[Answer] Well, it is further proof that we are the object of aggression on the part of Nicaragua. The aggression does not necessarily have to be military. It can be economic or ideological in nature. And this is further proof of what Nicaragua is doing to destroy Central America [words indistinct]

[Question] [Words indistinct] General, in view of these actions, is the Honduran Army prepared to repel these actions against the country's security?

[Answer] We have a constitutional duty and our mission is to prepare daily, to the extent of our capacity and that of the government to support us financially.

[Question] [Name indistinct] of EL TIEMPO. General, the foreign minister just sent an invitation to his Nicaraguan counterpart to visit the common border between our countries. Does this mean that the army, (?that is), the armed forces, are prepared to show that there are no counterrevolutionary camps.... [Alvarez interrupts]

[Answer] Not the armed forces but the Honduran Government. We are part of the Honduran Government. Look, if the president orders us to send helicopters to take the gentleman to the border we will do so. The Honduran Government is showing that we have nothing to do with that situation.

[Question] (Juan Manuel Herrera) of the daily newspaper EL HERALDO: General, you have ordered your subordinates to abstain from saving as much fuel as possible [Alvarez interrupts and asks: "Not to save fuel?"] I apologize, to save as much fuel as possible for the benefit of the country in view of our situation. However, some people are not looking favorably at the fact that certain senior officers are going around in expensive automobiles worth 60,000 and 80,000 lempiras. Are you going to issue any orders to purchase vehicles of ... [Alvarez interrupts and asks: "What do you mean by expensive automobiles?"] Well, I don't know, the ones one sees in the street [words indistinct]

[Answer] [Words indistinct] specifically. What luxury cars are there? Give me the make and the type.

[Question] I mean, those which are circulating ...

[Answer] [Words indistinct] we will get nowhere. How can I give an answer to this gentleman?

[Question] [Word indistinct] you that there are no luxury automobiles in the army?

[Answer] Man, I don't think the army has any luxury automobiles. Maybe you are referring to the Toyota land cruisers. These are comfortable and strong working cars that you can drive on any road because they have 4-wheel drive.

[Question] Are they armored?

[Answer] No. They are not armored. We have few armored cars, and those were ordered during the times of General Castro [not further identified]. They are needed. We don't face the same risks as you do as simple citizens. Unfortunately, the situation in Honduras is not the same as it was some years ago. I have armored vehicles. I have a right to have them, and let me explain why.

You, many, and also you [Alvarez changes train of thought] some people say Alvarez is safeguarding peace. However, they don't know that Alvarez has received threats to his family and to himself. If I am killed maybe you will remember me for some time but will will then forget me. However, I have eight children, the youngest being 8 years old, and I am risking my life to defend this country. I have to have some protection because I am not a simple citizen like you. I don't say this because I feel that I am more important but because of the position I hold. This is a right one can have. If I risk my life defending this country, I have to have minimum protection and I have to protect my children. (?They) say they are going to be kidnapped or that I am going to be killed. We have already discovered plots of this type. And there are commanders who are facing the same risk. Having an armored vehicle to protect these people is no luxury but a need.

[Question] Where do the (?threats) come from?

[Answer] Where do you think they come from, but from the communists [words indistinct]

[Question] Do you consider yourself an anticommunist bastion in this country?

[Answer] Well, I don't know if I am one but I do think that I have done them in quite a few times.

[Question] General Alvarez Martinez, Nicaragua is receiving more and more military assistance every day. Don't you think this represents a threat to the Central American area?

[Answer] What?

[Question] Nicaragua is getting more and more military assistance. Do you consider this a serious threat to the area's peace?

[Answer] That's right. Nicaragua has two options regarding Honduras: Direct invasion with the big army it has, or general subversion. Either is aggression. There are sectors that play into their hands here in Honduras. You know them. We are a small nation. Everybody knows who is who here. This is incredible and regrettable, isn't it?

[Question] (Myrta Flores de Mejia): In your speech you delivered a message to parents and I wish to congratulate you for that message. I have always noticed that newsmen pose the questions to you but I would like you, at this delicate time in our fatherland, when news reporting should take a back seat to the country's interests, to give us journalists a message. What message could you give them at these difficult times in our country?

[Answer] There is a little book [words indistinct] called "The Social Responsibility of the Press," and I don't want you, my fellow citizens and friends, to feel offended by anything I may tell you, because everyone has a conscience about what he is doing. The ones who do not fulfill that social duty are going to feel offended. I think it will be accepted by those who do fulfill such social duty.

The truth is that, generally speaking, the press has become mercenary and that there are people who like to speculate about things without caring about the damage they can cause to the country, to an institution or a person. They say: It is said, because they can't say I say. When they say: It is said, speculation begins among the people. And from then on the institution, or the person, is branded or blemished. This is neither fair nor honorable.

And now, given the political situation in the country and the aggression we are enduring, some newspapers go to the extreme of giving space to the communists to speak and to tell lies about events in Honduras. And I ask: Could a democrat express his views in a communist country? No, he can't, and yet we allow some people to talk and say things.

This can't be. I do not think freedom should go that far. And the worse thing is that [words indistinct] telling lies, falsehoods. If they told the truth, well, truth has to be accepted even if it hurts, but that is not the case. You allow these things to happen in certain newspapers and radio stations.

Other times, journalists attack or smear somebody because of some personal reason, or because they don't like that person, or because that person is not willing to give them money or allow them to do something. In this case they are not fulfilling their responsibility as professionals or are becoming personal in regard to some situation.

It is just as if I, a military man, ordered some person harassed because I didn't like that person. I have the power [words indistinct] and I could order the Fusep [Public Security Forces] or somebody else to mistreat or harass him. In that case, I would be personalizing my position and I must not do so because this is not my role. Neither should a journalist, who is a public servant, even if he does not depend on the government. He must not mix his personal problems with his profession, through which he should orient the people. This is one message I can give you.

[Mejia] Thank you for the message.

NICARAGUA

BORGE DISCUSSES PEACE WITH SWEDISH GROUP

PA230806 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Interior minister and Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge today reiterated the need for a negotiated solution in the Central American region to eliminate tensions in the isthmus. Commander Borge said this during a meeting in his office with a delegation of Swedish evangelical ministers who are an expression of Swedish support for peace in Central America. The ministers were interested in having Commander Borge explain the role of Christians in the revolutionary process. To this the interior minister said that in Nicaragua there are Christians who are identified with the people's interests and Christians who still continue to support exploitation, but that most of the Nicaraguan people are Christians and revolutionaries. Regarding the prospects for peace in the region, Commander Borge indicated that an obstacle to this is U.S. imperialism, which wants to maintain its hegemony at the cost of the most serious dangers for humankind. Regarding this, he said that the great struggle for humankind is to prevent a world war. Commander Borge said that the FSLN is concerned about the Central American situation in terms of world peace. Here is a part of Commander Borge's remarks to the Swedish delegation:

[Begin recording] Efforts for peace ae being made by all sensible men of the world. I think that the conclusions and the methods to be followed will have to be found by you through the contact with our reality. Nevertheless, I think that in one way or another we have to force those who don't want peace to seek negotiated solutions for peace.

Arrogance is not only due to subjective causes. I think arrogance also has an objective basis; that is, the power of the United States impels it, as part of Reagan's philosophy, to maintain hegemony in the world even at the price of the most serious dangers for humankind.

Perhaps the biggest struggle of humankind should be the search for peace in the world: in other words, to prevent a world war, since after such a world war everything would be finished. It would mean the extinction of humankind. That should be our main concern, and we are concerned about the Central American situation in relation to peace in the world. [end recording]

MINISTER CARDENAL COMMENTS ON MARXISM, RELIGION

PA230714 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Culture Minister Father Ernesto Cardenal concedes that he is Marxist, Christian and revolutionary. He said as much today in an interview granted to the newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO. He reaffirmed that he does not betray his vows by being a revolutionary because the FSLN does not seek power or privilege for its leaders but tries to serve and sacrifice itself for the people. I would betray my vows if I refused to make these sacrifices, he said.

To the accusation that the priests who work for the government traded the gospel for Marxism and turned their backs on Christ and now follow Marx, Cardenal said in EL NUEVO DIARIO: There is no incompatibility between Christianity and Marxism. They are not the same. They are different, but not incompatible. Christianity and the system called democracy are not the same but are incompatible [as heard]. Marxism is a scientific method to study society and to change it.

Cardenal added that Christ outlined the goals of the perfect society that we will create on the basis of fraternity and love, but did not tell us what scientific methods should be created to achieve it. I have often said that I am Marxist due to Christ and his gospel -- that the reading of Marx did not make me a Marxist; Christ's gospel made me a Marxist. I have said this before and it is true, Cardenal said.

VATICAN PRESENTS AWARD TO AMBASSADOR PETER SILVA

PA231835 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Ambassador to the Vatican Ricardo Peter Silva has been presented with the Grand Cross of the Order of Pius IX, the highest Holy See award, according to a Foreign Ministry announcement. The note stated that a communique issued on 19 February and signed by his excellency the secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, emphasized that the award represents the Vatican's appreciation of the Nicaraguan Government's representative at the Holy See. The Vatican press took notice of this high distinction at the time the pope announced his decision to travel to Central America.

The Grand Cross is the highest award ever presented by the Vatican to any foreign diplomat. It was created on 17 June 1847 by Pius IX and later modified by Pius XII, according to the Nunciature's secretary, Father (Juan Pablo Bovel). The distinction awarded to the Nicaraguan diplomat is one of the Vatican's most important recognitions of the Sandinist revolution.

TINOCO AT UN ON CENTRAL AMERICAN ISSUES

PA231840 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco, speaking at the United Nations today, praised Mexico's peace initiatives in Central America and reiterated his government's readiness to participate in a dialogue to achieve a peaceful negotiated solution to the area's problems.

Tinoco added that Nicaragua accepts the efforts at negotiation undertaken by countries such as Venezuela, Panama and Colombia, and noted that Europe too, is acting through the Socialist International, which has shown interest in helping to solve the Central American crisis. The Nicaraguan official stressed the need to negotiate on all aspects of the crisis, including the differences between Honduras and Nicaragua, the arms issue, the need for a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran conflict and the area's overall political issues.

Tinoco emphasized the fact, however, that despite all efforts to promote such a dialogue, U.S. Secretary of State Goerge Shultz has reiterated Washington's opposition to negotiations on the issue of El Salvador.

FPR WILLING TO HOLD TALKS WITH OPPOSITION

PA230807 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The Patriotic Front of the Revolution [FPR] today expressed the need to renew talks on subjects that are important for the country. It also expressed its willingness to hold a dialogue with the members of the opposition. FPR spokesman (Luis Humberto Guzman) said that dialogue is needed to analyze politically important subjects, adding that there must be an agreement with the opposition on the subjects.

UN DELEGATION URGES START OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

FL230048 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Cuba today asked the UN Disarmament Committee for the immediate start of negotiations to prevent the outbreak of a nuclear war, and at the same time submitted to that body a document on the elimination of chemical arms. In a speech before that forum, the chief of the Cuban delegation, Luis Sola Vila, recalled that the problem of eliminating nuclear arms has already been considered to be (?important) by the UN General Assembly in its final document in 1968. Expanding on the subject, Sola Vila denounced the attitude adopted by governments such as that of the United States, which underestimate the need for preventing a nuclear war, and noted that the principal objective must be to check the escalation of the nuclear arms race and to open the way for a lasting peace, eliminating the threat of a world holocaust.

MPSP VOICES SUPPORT FOR SURINAMESE REVOLUTION

FL232151 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2118 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] On the occasion of the third anniversary of the triumph of Suriname's revolutionary process next Friday, the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of People [MPSP] has issued a declaration reiterating its solidarity and greeting the Caribbean nation on that anniversary.

The document states that on 25 February 1980 a military movement formed by young officers assumed power in Suriname and organized the National Military Council, and that since then a people's process with measures benefiting the masses has been developing. It adds that the Surinamese process has been subjected to constant threats, provocations and aggressions by imperialism and internal reactionary forces, which are trying to undo the revolution's successes. The document stresses that despite the 5 May mercenary invasion and an aborted coup d'etat attempt at the end of 1982, the Surinamese process is advancing.

SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS DECORATED ON ANNIVERSARY

FL231925 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] A group of Soviet military advisors working in our country was decorated with the Internationalist Combatant Medal, second class as part of the activities being held to mark the 65th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces. The medals were presented in a solemn ceremony held at the Soviet Internationalist Soldier Mausoleum located southwest of Havana where wreaths were placed in commemoration.

Colonel Armando Saucedo Yero, member of the party Central Committee and first deputy chief of the FAR Central Political Directorate, presented the medals. Afterwards, an honor guard marched in review before the group. The ceremony was attended by Konstantin Katushev, Soviet ambassador to Cuba; Colonel General Vladimir Konchits, chief military adviser to the FAR Ministr · Major General Anatoliy Filipchenko, cosmonaut pilot, twice Hero of the Soviet Union and chief of the delegation attending our country's festivities connected with the 65th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces. Also present were Navy Captain Genadiy Mikhaylov, naval and air attache in the Soviet Embassy in Cuba; generals, chiefs and officers of the FAR; military attaches accredited to our homeland, and the families of the Soviet specialists.

ELECTIONS HELD IN MARTINIQUE, GUADELOUPE, GUIANA

FL212045 Bridgetown CANA in English 2048 GMT 21 Feb 83

[By Serge Argentin]

[Text] Fort-de-France, Martinique, Feb 21, CANA -- Leftist parties have made a strong showing in regional council elections held yesterday in France's Caribbean island departments of Martinique, Guadeloupe and Guiana, according to results announced today. The leftists picked up 18 of the 31 seats at stake in Guiana, 21 of 41 in Martinique and 20 of the 41 in Guadeloupe.

But today the Socialists were still fragmented in the face of the unity of France's rightist opposition Rally for the Republic Party (RPR) and the Union for Democratic France (UDF). The RPR and the UDF, which joined forces in the election, collected 13 seats in Guiana. Leftist parties winning seats there were: the Socialist Party (14), the Democratic Union for the Promotion of Guiana (1), and the Guiana workers' union (3).

In Guadeloupe, the Communist Party won 11 seats, with nine going to the Socialist Party, the RPR and the UDF collected 21.

In Martinique, the Communist Party picked up 4 seats, the Martinique Progressive Party 12, and the Martinique Socialist Party 5. Twenty seats went to the right RPR and the UDF.

The elections marked the second test, after a poll in Corsica last August, of the Paris administration's decentralisation plan to grant greater autonomy to the various regions of France.

The left won a majority of the departments' vote for the French National Assembly in 1981, but the right still predominates in the general councils which govern the islands.

The new regional councils elected yesterday will manage an important budget and take responsibility for agriculture, planning, regional transport and education. They are viewed in Paris as an attempt by the Socialists to break the right's political grip.

BAHAMAS

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS MEMBERSHIP IN NONALIGNED

FL181923 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] The minister of external affairs, the Honorable Paul Adderley, said membership in the Nonaligned Movement can help the Bahamas to develop a national identity. (Debbie Barkley) has that story:

[Barkley] Once colonial territory, Minister Adderley said, the Bahamas has a long way to go in developing its national identity. He explained that there are a lot of external cultural factors which impinge upon the Bahamian identity, but the way to develop the Bahamian identity must be found. Mr Adderley said being a member of the Nonaligned Movement can continue to develop [words indistinct] from the [words indistinct] of our sovereignty and independence.

[Begin Adderley recording] The Nonaligned Movement members are those (?whose principal members have) either been former colonies or former dependents or existing in some kind of dependent relationship with a major country. All of these are countries which are trying to find ways to extricate themselves from the imposition of foreign influences, mostly bad ones, not good ones, which arise in countries which have been dominated by bigger countries, whether by colonialism or any kind of methods.

The colonial domination doesn't have its particular ideological identification. The colonial dominator comes from the right or comes from the left. He comes from the conservatives or he comes from the socialists. Either way there are major countries of the world (?that are so rich) they dominate smaller countries. [end recording]

Minister Adderley said that the current trend in the Nonaligned Movement is to provide a forum for countries in the world who are trying to maintain their independence from major powers.

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT TO FLOAT CURRENCY AGAINST JAMAICA'S

FL190045 Bridgetown, CANA in English 0040 GMT 19 Feb 83

[By Albert Brandford]

[Text] Bridgetwon, Barbados, Feb 18, CANA -- Barbados tonight announced it would from Monday float its currency against Jamaica's, in an effort to regain some competitive edge in trading with her fellow Caribbean Community (Caricom) country.

The move was announced by Central Bank governor, Dr Courtney Blackman, six weeks after Jamaica introduced a two-tiered currency exchange system that made Barbadian goods more expensive on the Jamaica market. Dr Blackman said the operation of a two-tier system with a fixed and a floating exchange rate could not be easily accomodated within the frame work of a multilateral trading system.

"The Barbados Government has therefore decided to establish a floating exchange rate regime for the Barbados dollar vis-a-vis the Jamaica dollar," he said. "Accordingly," he added, "the Central Bank of Barbados had advised commercial banks (here) that, with effect from Monday, February 21, 1983, it no longer undertakes to intervene in the market for Jamaican dollars.

"Furthermore, payments between Jamaica and Barbados will no longer be processed through the Caribbean Community (Caricom) multilateral clearing facility, except for payments to and from regional institutions, payments relating to inter-governmental flows, and Caricom travellers cheques," he said.

He added: "Commercial banks, however, remain free to deal in Jamaican dollars with their customers at rates determined by demand and supply for the respective currencies." The Barbados dollar had previously been fixed at 90 cents Jamaican.

With effect from January 10, Jamaica formalised its parallel currency exchange market, using the official rate of one U.S. dollar to 1.78 dollars Jamaican for the import of essential items and raw materials for export manufacturers.

Commercial banks are however allowed to set a more expensive rate for other transactions and the Barbadian manufacturers claimed that this, along with the imposition of a quota system, made their exports to Jamaica less competitive. The Barbados Government, in the light of manufacturers complaints, had promised to study the report of a fact-finding mission to Jamaica before taking action.

Dr Blackman said he would not regard this move as a retaliatory measure "...but a defensive one, which is a different thing, a move made in the face of a situation where it was difficult to accommodate a floating rate within a multilateral clearing system which envisages a single, stable rate." The Central Bank anticipated that the effect of the new Barbados arrangement should be to make Barbados exports to Jamaica cheaper and imports from that country more expensive.

He said it would mean that the Jamaica dollar would be revalued upward against the Barbados dollar and depress the Barbadian unofficial rate (one BDS dollar: 1.40 Jamaica dollars) so as to restore some of the competitive edge to the Barbadian exporters.

"Under the present system, the prices of Barbados exports to Jamaica have risen considerably," he said," and now, Jamaican exporters have a considerable cost advantage against Barbadian exporters, even without the fact that it is extremely difficult to get into the Jamaican market." Dr Blackman added: "Under the system that we envisage, the value of the Barbados dollar in terms of the Jamaican dollar will be determined by the demand and supply for these respective countries. In tradable goods, Jamaica has a surplus with Barbados; therefore, their currency should be in greater demand than the Barbados dollar."

He denied that the Barbados move was designed to pressure Jamaica into a return to the single rate system, although he felt that such a system was desirable. He said it was merely to protect Barbadian interests. Dr Blackman said that while the move would not completely negate the impact of the new Jamaican arrangement, it could have some mitigating effect on the consequences of the Jamaican action.

Paper Scores Jamaican Attitude

FL231950 Bridgetown CANA in English 1850 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 23, CANA -- The "ADVOCATE-NEWS" today brushed aside Jamaica's criticism of Barbados' decision to float this island's dollar against that of its Caribbean Community (Caricom) trading partner as just another indicator of "the selfish, Jamaica-first attitude."

At the same time, in its editorial the newspaper remarked: "How Jamaica regards the rest of the Caribbean should be viewed with the hindsight of the high-handed manner in which she torpedoed the West Indies Federation in 1961." The bank of Jamaica (Central Bank) has described the floating of the Barbados currency as discriminatory. It also expressed doubts about the legality of the move.

Barbados Central Bank announced the measure last week in response to Jamaica's introduction of a two-tiered rate of exchange for the Jamaica and U.S. dollars which has made Barbadian exports to Jamaica more expensive.

"The sheer gall of the Bank of Jamaica in describing as "discriminatory" Barbados' decision to float the Barbados dollar against the Jamaican dollar is a further indicator of the selfish, "Jamaica-first" attitude that has always coloured that country's dealings with the other Caribbean territories," the "ADVOCATE-NEWS" remarked.

The paper said that Jamaica had moved to protect its own interests by having an official rate of 1.78 Jamaica dollars to one U.S. dollar for special imports and a higher rate of exchange -- based on supply and demand conditions -- for other imports, but Barbados also had that right, the paper added. The plan to float the Barbados dollar against Jamaica's was announced by Central Bank Governor Dr Courtney Blackman who said it was to help Barbadian exporters regain a competitive edge in the trade with Jamaica.

"With Jamaica's trade surplus with Barbados, this (move) would mean that the Jamaica currency should be in greater demand than the Barbados dollar," the newspaper remarked.

Commenting on the Jamaica complaint, the paper said: "How did it see its own actions when Barbadian manufacturers exported their goods to Jamaica and the government's policies help up payments for months on end while Jamaican goods came into Barbados and this country honoured its commitments under the Caricom agreement?

"How did Jamaica see its actions when trade missions exchanged visits and mounted exhibitions on a reciprocal basis with official blessing from both governments, orders were placed by Jamaican importers for millions of dollars of Barbadian manufacturers, but the Jamaican Government delayed the issue of import licences for months so that commitments could not be honoured?"

The paper added: "It is all very easy to make high-sounding statements about commitment to regional ideas and aspirations. Honouring the promises and agreements made is another matter entirely when insular self-interest is the main motivation."

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER LOME CONVENTION

FL181942 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Government has expressed concern with the financial and technical assistance which this country and its partners within the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states have been allocated under the Lome Convention. At the same time, the government has also said that one of its greatest concerns has to do with the sugar protocol under which ACP sugar is sold to the EEC under the convention.

Pointing out these disturbing factors yesterday was Senator O'Brien Trotman who chaired a meeting yesterday between a fact-finding team of parliamentarians from Europe and government officials at government headquarters.

Senator Trotman said there was a consensus that the Lome arrangements, although far from perfect was a positive gain in the dialogue between rich and poor countries.

"However," Senator Trotman said, "the ACP countries have found that the unilateral decisions by the EEC and the interpretation of the agreement in the protocols have resulted in the restriction of the expansion of trade between the ACP and the EEC." He called for the abolition of the quota system and the elimination of all non-tariff barriers against this product.

On the sugar protocol Senator Trotman said: "Although the protocol is of indefinite duration and is not for re-negotiation, we would like to see the spirit and the letter of the protocol being observed.

"The absence of negotiations between the ACP and the EEC over prices as envisaged by the protocol and the necessity for ACP producers to meet freight cost out of the agreed prices for sugar are all matters of great concern to us, he said.

In the area of financial and technical assistance, Senator Trotman declared: "We are concerned that the volume of the resources allocated has been so limited." The Europeans will continue their round of engagements today with a visit to the Oistin Fishery complex and Carrington sugar factory.

GRENADA

BISHOP CONDEMNS U.S. MANEUVERS IN LIBYAN WATERS

FL230051 Bridgetown CANA in English 0005 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Feb 22, CANA -- Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has condemned what it said were United States military manoeuvres in "the air space and territorial waters" of Libya, and has called on countries of the United Nations and Non-aligned Movement to show solidarity with Libya by denouncing American action.

The state-owned Radio Free Grenada (RFG) reported today that, the PRG had dispatched a message to the Libyan leader declaring that Grenada "unhesitatingly condemned the aggressive and provocative manoeuvres which are blatant violations of Libya's sovereignty." The PRG called on the U.S. and its allies to "desist from hostile actions" which, it said, endanger peace, not only in Africa, but throughout the whole world.

"The message said the manoeuvres are aimed at stopping the forward march of the Libyan revolution, but expressed confidence that Libya will prevail against, what it called, the armies of imperialism," the radio said.

In a statement carried by RFG, New Jewel Movement said it views with deep concern the "vulgar spying missions and the disgusting attempts to instigate confrontation between Libya and some of the countries on its borders."

STRACHAN ATTACKS PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY SYSTEM

FL231630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1509 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Feb 23, CANA -- A Grenada cabinet minister has launched a scathing attack on the system of parliamentary democracy as practised by some English-speaking Caribbean countries.

According to Selwyn Strachan, minister of national mobilisation in the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), the Westminister system does not have avenues for workers to express their grievances and to make suggestions or comments on national issues.

Mr Strachan in a radio interview broadcast here said that what exists under the Westminister system was a mere parliament, in which the so-called representatives of the people speak only to themselves, leaving workers out of the process being built.

He charged that although these parliamentarians were elected by the people for a five-year term in office, the fact of the matter was that this system of government represented "sham democracy" because it was giving the impression that the people were free to do what they wanted.

These people, who are elected under the Westminister model of government, he added, can do whatever they want in Parliament because "there is no sort of mechanism to recall them."

According to Mr Strachan under "the organs of popular democracy" which the left-leaning Grenada Government was attempting to build in the country, the "ordinary grassroots people" are brought together to discuss their community problems and to make the necessary criticisms.

Mr Strachan, without indicating how, said new organs of popular democracy were being created for Grenadians to recall their leaders.

He said: "They will have an avenue where they can listen to the leaders of the country, to those in charge of key programmes of the country, and to make the necessary criticisms and to suggest alternatives for further development."

STATION STOPS REPLAYING BBC NEWS BULLETINS

FL230059 Bridgetown CANA in English 0010 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Feb 22, CANA -- State-owned Radio Free Grenada (RFG) has stopped re-playing British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news bulletins following the London-head-quartered station's reporting on a U.S. State Department document that criticised the island's human rights record, a government spokesman, Kamau McBarnette, said tonight.

"We have in fact held up the re-broadcasting of BBC news," said Mr McBarnette, the secretary for information in the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG). "This is a result of a long and consistent history of the BBC that fundamentally conflicts with our national and foreign policy."

He said the BBC did not check its facts before carrying reports about Grenada, "or if they do, they have a deep bias about reporting on the country.

"To mention just one example: About two weeks ago, the BBC carried a report about people disappearing in the country, which was false. The report was put out by the U.S. State department," he added. The State Department report criticised the human rights situation in a number of Caribbean and Latin American countries with socialist governments, including Cuba, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname.

Although there were no reports of political murders in Grenada, it said, there were continued allegations of torture and disappearances last year. The leftist PRG took power in a coup on March 13, 1979. Some regional governments and newspapers have accused the government of detaining its opponents for long periods without charge or trial.

GOVERNMENT SEEKING WORLD BANK, IMF ASSISTANCE

FL182345 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The World Bank and the IMF are expected to send high-level technical missions to Grenada shortly for a number of feasibility studies. This follows bilateral discussions held in Washington last week between top officials of the IMF and the World Bank and the Grenada delegation headed by Finance Minister Bernard Coard. At a news conference in St Georges today, Comrade Coard said the discussions centered on the possibility of increased financial and technical assistance to Grenada from the IMF and the World Bank over the next 50 years.

JAMAICA

BANK CALLS BARBADIAN DECISION 'DISCRIMINATORY'

FL211620 Bridgetown CANA in English 2149 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 20, CANA -- The Bank of Jamaica (Central Bank) says Barbados' decision to float its currency against the Jamaican dollar is discriminatory and has expressed doubts over the legality of the move.

Barbados announced the measure Friday in an attempt to increase its trading competitiveness with Kingston following Jamaica's institution of a two-tiered exchange rate for its dollar.

Under the Jamaica arrangement the island's dollar is still officially fixed against U.S. currency at 1.78 Jamaican dollar for one U.S. dollar. But that exchange rate is only for vital imports, raw materials for export production and stipulated payments. Other imports, including those from Jamaica's partners within the Caribbean Community (Caricom) are at higher parallel market exchange rates set by commercial banks, depending on supply and demand.

The "GLEANER" newspaper today quoted the Central Bank's Governor Horace Barber as saying that Barbados' action in floating its currency against Jamaica's was discriminatory because it put this island at a disadvantage against imports from third countries as well as from other Caricom states.

Mr Barber said he did not think Barbados' action was in accordance with the rules governing currency practices for member countries of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said too that he was surprised that Barbados decided to float its currency against the Jamaican dollar at this time when it was known that Kingston intended to fully discuss its new economic measures at the Central Bank level at a March 12 meeting of the board of directors of the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), the scheme for financing trade within the region. Caricom member states said that Jamaica's two-tiered exchange system will make their exports to Kingston considerably more expensive, thereby eroding their cost effectiveness.

Suspends Barbadian Transactions

FL222010 Bridgetown CANA in English 1918 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 22, CANA -- The (Central) Bank of Jamaica [BOJ] has suspended transactions in the Barbadian currency until commercial banks in Bridgetown determine at what rates that island's dollar will trade against the Jamaican dollar, it has been officially announced here. There was no trading yesterday and today in the Barbados dollar, a senior Central Bank official said. The Jamaica move followed Barbados' decision to float its dollar against the Jamaican currency from yesterday.

According to the BOJ's director of monetary policy Asgar Ally, the Barbados commercial banks have not yet indicated at what rates they will be dealing in Jamaican dollars. "In fact, the Barbadian decision to float its dollar against the Jamaican dollar led to a de facto suspension of trading until the rates were determined," Mr Ally said.

Mr Ally said that there would be no trading with Barbados until the commercial banks there were in a position to say what would be the relative rate between the two islands' currencies.

Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga met with other Caricom leaders in Saint Lucia on Sunday to discuss trade relations in the community in the wake of his government's new regulations. The Jamaica Government said that one decision from that meeting was for regional central bankers to meet next week to determine how the formalisation of the parallel currency here will effect regional trade.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON TWO-TIERED CURRENCY

FL222257 Bridgetown CANA in English 2249 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb. 22, CANA -- The Jamaica Government today issued the following statement following talks Prime Minister Edward Seaga held Sunday with Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados, Prime Minister George Chambers of Trinidad and Tobago and Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird of Antigua. The talks were held in Castries, St Lucia, and dealt with Jamaica's two-tiered currency market. The statement said:

"1. The formalisation of the parallel market and attendant [export] measures introduced by Jamaica in January were instituted because of the special circumstances of a severe decline in bauxite, alumina earnings resulting from the world recession, and a sharp increase this year in debt service deferred by the last government 1978 and 1979 -- both of which have impacted on the Jamaican economy at the same time.

"2. Jamaica is now faced with objections and complaints from its Caricom trading partners that these measures will affect their ability to export to Jamaica.

" 3. This is not the first time that Jamaica has established a formal parallel market rate. A similar measure was introduced in April 1977, when a special rate of exchange was at 37.5 percent above the official rate. The present parallel market rate while subject to fluctuation, is expected to level off at about 40 percent above the official rate, very little difference from the 1977 change.

" 4. An analysis of our trading relations with our major Caricom partners indicates that by 1980 Jamaica's non-oil imports from Caricom more than doubled after an initial levelling off period as is demonstrated by the following data:

Non-oil imports from Caricom in U.S. dollar million:

1977	33.10
1978	34.40
1979	33.30
1980	72.30
1981	76.10
1982	67.00

This occurred in spite of the fact that in addition to the differential of 37.5 percent between the official rate and the special rate set in 1977, there were in 1978 and 1979 several devaluations which should have had the effect, using the present arguments, of making Caricom goods un-competitive in the Jamaican market. Instead the several changes in rates of exchange did not increase exports as projected and in fact by 1980 exports substantially increased from Caricom.

" 5. It was pointed out that in 1982 Jamaica's total imports from all Caricom countries amounted to approximately 84 million dollars (U.S.), and of this amount, the comoodities which, under the new system, will enjoy the official rather than the parallel rate of exchange, account for approximately 60 percent. It is therefore wrong to assume that all Caricom imports have been put on the parallel market when in fact only 40 percent are affected.

" 6. It was pointed out that if the Jamaican dollar had been devalued, an act which is within the sovereign right of any government and therefore could not given rise to any protest from any trading partner, those countries now objecting to the Jamaican measures would be in a far worse trading position, because not only would their goods be more expensive in Jamaica -- but Jamaican goods would be cheaper in their own marketplaces and therefore offer them greater competition at home.

" 7. It is to be remembered that Jamaica is in the midst of a programme of economic recovery after eight years of economic devastation in which we lost 20 percent of GDP, thousands of our skilled professionals, all our foreign exchange reserves, 57 percent of our standard of living, while unemployment increased by 50 percent and the rate of inflation averaged 23 percent annually. No other country in the Caribbean or indeed the world experienced that kind of economic catastrophe throughout the 1970's.

In dealing with the effects of the severe depression of the 1970's now compounded by the world recession of the 1980's -- while endeavouring to effect economic recovery, restore growth, revive investment, rebuild foreign exchange earnings, reduce unemployment and inflation -- Jamaica has undertaken a Herculean task which needs the understanding and cooperation of all its Caricom partners, the prime minister said.

" 8. Complaints being voiced at this time are in effect bemoaning the inability of the Jamaican marketplace -- as the largest in Caricom -- to absorb and ensure export growth in the Caricom region. It is for this very reason that our Caricom partners should understand that a healthy Jamaican economy is in the long run in the interest of their own economic objectives; conversely an ailing Jamaican economy could cause severe hardship and suffering in Caricom.

" 9. The cooperation of our Caricom partners with the new Jamaican policy measures is therefore to the mutual benefit of all, the prime minister repeated, as these measures seek to maintain the best economic environment possible under the circumstance. Accordingly, talks are continuing at the technical level of the central banks of the Caricom group of countries to find means of adjusting to the new measures within the framework of what the Government of Jamaica will find possible. Already useful discussions have taken place which may have possibilities for dealing with certain problems raised."

DETAINED CUBAN REFUGEES STAGE HUNGER STRIKE

LD231500 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpt] (?Twelve) Cubans who have been detained in [word indistinct] camps since July 1982 have now gone on a hunger strike in the hope of getting released or attracting the attention of some international organization such as the Red Cross. The group of Cubans is comprised of several families with children ranging in the ages 2 to 4 years. As the result of the hunger strike one man who needs attention for a heart condition is now in a weakened condition and could suffer a heart attack due to poor nutrition and the intense humidity of his cell.

BELIZE'S PRICE ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH BURNHAM

FL231340 Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Belize's Prime Minister George Price and Guyanese-born Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal are in Guyana for consultations with President Forbes Burnham. Prime Minister Price and Mr Ramphal arrived in the country last evening. They were met on arrival by Prime Minister Dr Ptolemy Reid and Foreign Minister Jackson.

Both Mr Price and Mr Ramphal attended last week's (?informal) meeting of Caricom leaders in St Lucia which was also attended by Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Guyana was not represented at the St Lucia meeting because the time was inconvenient.

BURNHAM REJECTS U.S. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

FL232052 Bridgetown CANA in English 2039 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 23, CANA — Guyana's President Forbes Burnham has rejected as having no basis of truth, a U.S. State Department report that criticises Guyana's human rights record. Mr Burnham made the claim during a midnight ceremony at the national park in Georgetown to mark the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. The State Department report, he said, "represents nothing but an attempt to besmirch Guyana's image without justification."

The report said the human rights prognosis for Guyana was unfavourable as the government became less accountable to the electorate. It said 14 people died in police shootings last year and that there were several reports of torture. The report listed five communist or leftist government -- Cuba, Guyana, Grenada, Nicaragua and Suriname -- as the worst human rights violaters in the region in 1982.

In a wide-ranging address, Mr Burnham said he had no intention of taking Guyana down the capitalist road to development or to take orders from outside. He also complained of the failure of the West to restructure its major financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) -- the World Bank. President Burnham said Guyana intends to build socialism, to achieve self-sufficiency in good and to pursue a nonaligned policy.

"We are regaled with the thesis that we have chosen the wrong course, but those who profess to have chosen the right course are in more trouble than we and in several cases, have to subsist, not exist, on handouts," he remarked. "We must change course, we are constantly advised, and some of our own people whom we have rescued from obscurity are employed to deliver the message.

"But change course to what? To the old course which brought us inferior status and class-ridden society," he asked. Mr Burnham said that Guyana must pursue its own programme in cooperation with "like minded" countries. "When we will have succeeded, it will be at the cost of the privileges of the few. It will be success by means unconventional in this hemisphere," he said. "We will have taken a non-capitalistic road to development. We will have refused to take orders. We will have rejected subservience."

The president said those who have dominated the world so far, "believe with unwarranted conviction that they are the chosen of the Lord, ordained to keep the gentiles and the heathen in their places." "They prate democracy but refuse to accept the opinion of the majority with respect to the restructuring of institutions like the IMF and IBRD," he added. The president continued: "They are our enemies, not because we have attacked them but because we have chosen to strike out on our own. They confuse friendship with servility and obsequiousness."

Mr Burnham also said Guyana will be represented by a strong delegation at the seventh summit conference of the movement of non-aligned countries in New Delhi, India, next month. "Guyana will be prepared to contribute to the deliberations hoping to strengthen the movement and hoping to make it even more effective as a mechanism of co-operation between countries of the south at the political and economic levels," Mr Burnham said.

Guyana, he added, has already made proposals with respect to the North-South dialogue and the urgently serious South-South cooperation and with respect to regional and sub-regional co-operation. "Guyanese in the meantime must make their own efforts and pursue their own objectives in keeping with the thesis that the developing world must develop a joint strategy and common tactics if it is to bargain with the developed world successfully," he said.

The president called on Guyanese to enjoy the celebrations but stressed that at the end they must "return to the imperatives of survival."

CHANGES IN CUBAN, FRENCH AMBASSADORS ANNOUNCED

FL191537 Bridgetown CANA in English 1516 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 19, CANA -- Cuban Ambassador to Guyana Mr. Ivan Ceasar Martinez is to end his diplomatic assignment here shortly, the government-run chronicle newspaper said.

An official of the Cuban Embassy in Georgetown said Mr. Martinez, who returned home last Saturday, was "finalising his farewell arrangements."

The newspaper reported too that Ms. Francoise Claude-la-Fontaine has been named as France's new non resident ambassador to Guyana.

The French diplomat, who is based in Port-of Spain, is scheduled to present her credentials to Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid on February 24.

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AMBASSADOR TO THE HAGUE CLOSES EMBASSY 22 FEB

PA231347 Hilversum International Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Henck Herrenberg, Suriname ambassador to the Netherlands, left for Suriname today. He expressed the opinion that the Netherlands Government is not taking the necessary measures to guarantee his safety. He has therefore closed the Suriname Embassy in The Hague.

Mr Herrenberg has been extremely irritated by the behavior of news photographers. On his departure from Shipol Airport, there was another incident with photographers which almost led to a fistfight.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broeck has rejected the Surinamese ambassador's complaints.

NEWSPAPERMAN FROM THE NETHERLANDS ARRESTED

PA200048 Hilversum International Service in Spanich 2230 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Netherlands journalist (Fritz Devite) was arrested in Suriname due probably to (Devite's) publication in several newspapers in the Netherlands about the health condition of the military leader, Daysi Bouterse.

Radio Netherlands reported on Bouterse's health in one of its transmissions. According to the reporter, the Surinamese people were more concerned over the physical appearance of Bouterse than over his televised statements. The newsman suggested that Bouterse's appearance could have been related to the effects of tranquilizers, such as valium.

Talking to a representative of the Netherlands in Paramaribo, (Devite) said he had no idea why he had been arrested. The journalist has been interrogated and his personal documents were confiscated.

Meanwhile, the Dutch Association of Journalists has expressed concern over the incident and requested the reporter's release.